

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE CHURCHMAN'S MIRROR.

No. VIII.

THE PATERNITY OF GOVERNMENT.

IN the hands of theologians figures of speech have always been more dangerous than useful. Half the errors which have distracted the church, have sprung out of the abuse to which these helps to thought have been perverted. Why it should be so would prove, perhaps, a ticklish inquiry. Whether, in this particular department, the mind is specially apt to flag, and to sit down under the bower of the first umbrageous metaphor it may chance to discover—or whether the material offers to it, in its walks of speculation, a more sturdy and appreciable support than the spiritual—or whether, in all matters affecting religion, there is a natural proneness to idolatry which converts the symbol into a god, and makes every sign-post along the road to truth an object of trust and worship—whatever be the cause, the fact is indisputable, that there were a general "slaughter of the innocents," a clean removal of favourite, and, it may be, scriptural figures, a vast number of ecclesiastical sects would have nothing left them over which to contend—no shibboleth—no watch-word—no weapon—no banner. The last thing which a party resigns, is its established figure. Illustration, argument, proof, authority—all that can sway the judgment to conviction, or persuade the heart to submission, are believed to be enshrined in one venerated image. Like the elevated host, it is carried before each section of the religious world with peculiar parade and pomp, and teachers and taught bow down before it.

Thus idolised, confided in, and, on set occasions, exhibited, is that ecclesiastical representation of civil government which shadows forth its relation to its subjects as essentially paternal. The State has been appropriately enough set forth as a father—its leading functions, the exercise of authority, and the extension of protection, being the prominent and characteristic features of the parental tie. Jewish kings, the direct viceregents of God, appointed by his choice, ruling in his name, administering his laws, and presiding over a preparatory economy devised by his own wisdom, were thus designated by inspired writers—and the fitness of the image has secured for it a niche in our own times. As an image, we do not quarrel with it—it represents a special idea, and represents it well. But, really, we must demur to receiving it, as it is sometimes pressed upon us, as a judge competent to decide high matters of controversy. We look upon it as neither reasonable nor safe to throw away convictions, obtained not without serious investigation and patient reflection, because, by logical artifice, this verbal idol can be made to frown upon them. Orators of the Chalmersian school may exhort us, in rolling sentences, long and sonorous as the billows of the Atlantic, to take the decision of the Church-establishment question at its lips—but, somehow or other, our understanding refuses thus to be overawed. Vain, as far as we are concerned, is that long series of explosive queries let off one after another by putting in contact with them the kindling suggestion—"If the State be a father." Yes! if it be, in any other sense than a figurative one, the conclusion, of course, is triumphant. Is it not accountable to God? Should it be negligent in the business of instruction? Ought the highest interests of its children to be overlooked? May their souls be left without spiritual guidance?

These questions, usually thrust at us with so confident an air, we propose to parry by others equally legitimate; and, having succeeded in this, we may soberly inquire, in turn, what are the qualifications of the State to take upon itself the duties of paternity. If it be a parent—if all that a parent is bound to do for his children should be done on a national scale for its subjects by the civil government—if it may meddle with, shape, and control, precisely the same

interests as those which claim the interposition of a father—if, and all the logical force of this much-vaunted argument resides in the *if*, the duties and responsibilities of the magistrate are co-extensive with those of the head of a family—then we claim to ask the following pertinent questions. Is not the father the appointed guardian of the health, habits, studies, and recreations of his child? Is not his authority absolute? Does he not prescribe food, and select the physician who is to prescribe physic? The times for rising and going to bed—the number of meals, and the quantity which shall be eaten at them—the hours to be devoted to learning, and those to be set apart for play—the place of residence, the companions to be allowed, the manners to be observed, the books to be read—are not all these to be decided upon by the parent? Does he not dictate, wisely or unwisely, the choice of a profession? Does he not authoritatively give or withhold his sanction in the case of matrimonial alliance? And are we to assign like prerogatives to the State? Is the sphere of the one co-extensive in these respects with that of the other? None but those who yearn after a yoke of tyranny too heavy to be borne, can give an affirmative reply to these last inquiries.

"Oh! but you strain the figure too unmercifully," will be interjected by our opponents. Precisely so, we reply; and we have done so for the express purpose of showing that it *may* be strained. This settled, the inquiry is fairly open, whether, when used to prove the duty of providing religious instruction, it possesses the slightest authority,—whether, in relation to anything but the mere giving of law, and affording protection, the paternity of Government is not moonshine. Two or three hints will assist us towards a rational conclusion.

The figure, correct enough for its original purpose, pressed beyond this extent, represents a stark falsehood. The State is not the parent of the public, but its hired servant. Such authority as it has is delegated to it, to be employed by it as a responsible trustee rather than as an absolute proprietor. There is not an official vested with civil power whom the people may not at any time call to account. The succession to the throne has been changed—the form of government altered—the course of legislation again and again chalked out—in obedience to the decisions of public opinion. Whatever may have been the case with Jewish monarchs, who held office directly under God, the representative form of civil polity is founded upon the maxim that "the people is the source of power." Either, then, we must return to absolutism and divine right, or we must surrender whatever of force there is in the idea of governmental paternity. The party derived cannot claim prerogatives due to a progenitor. This nation, for example, has right to choose its governors, or it has not. If it have not, Queen Victoria, recognised by Churchmen as the temporal head of the church, as well as supreme magistrate, holds her throne by usurpation. If it have, then the officers of its own choice, the powers of its own creation, cannot be regarded as vested with supreme authority—the idea necessary to a just application of the figure.

The theorists who have laid down this intimate relationship of the governors to the governed have proved themselves to be unpractised journeymen in their work. Where Providence constructs a tie, Providence invariably provides also for the fulfilment of the obligations which grow out of it. The dependence of children upon parents would lead to numberless mischiefs, did not He who ordained it endow those parents with superior knowledge, and kindle in their hearts the flame of natural affection. But where are we to look for proofs of parental yearnings in a state? How comes it, if the magistrate is charged with the duty of training up his subjects in the fear of God, and of looking after their spiritual interests, that he is furnished with no special aptitude to his calling—with no self-acting inducements to make that calling good? We know well that fathers, in the ordinary sense of the term, mistake most woefully respecting their children's welfare. But this is only the misdirection of a natural feeling, not the absence of it. In the case of rulers, there is no emotion answering to a parent's love—no essentially impelling force which can secure self-denial—no bent of the inner man which, when allowed its legitimate sway, dictates conduct which only an anxiety for the happiness of their subjects can account for. That Providence is herein at fault we cannot believe: we take, therefore, the only remaining alternative, that the theory is a fiction.

The paternity of Government, if good for anything,

is good for a vast deal more than its abettors mean. All they are solicitous to derive from it, is state-endowments in support of *their* faith. Now, we will shut our eyes, for the nonce, to the awkward fact, that this figurative parent has no property of his own to dispose of, and that what he sets apart for religion he must first take from his people—there is something more note-worthy than this. If, in virtue of his relationship he is bound to endow a creed, is he not bound to choose what it shall be? Are the children at liberty to select their own faith? And if that faith be at variance with that of their rulers, may they claim at his hands the requisite means of instruction? A thousand absurdities of this order will suggest themselves to every reflective mind—until, at length, their very number will compel the abandonment of this controversial idol.

Government exercises authority over its subjects—so does a father over his offspring; Government extends protection to its subjects—so does a father to his children. Herein, then, there is an obvious resemblance between the two—and, on the strength of this resemblance, civil rulers may be represented as sustaining to their people a parental relationship. He who converts the shadow into substance, the image into a reality, the figure into fact, and proceeds to deduce important practical inferences from his own mistake, is guilty of a similar blunder to that of a man who, finding a picture of his Lord, and admiring its vividness of expression, falls down and renders to it divine homage.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

The second anniversary meeting of this association was held on Thursday evening last, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. The large room was densely crowded with a most respectable audience, and numbers went away unable to obtain admission. Among those present we noticed the following ministers of the Gospel: Messrs. Campbell, W. Brock, of Norwich, C. Stovel, A. J. Morris, J. H. Hinton, J. Burnet, W. Groser (editor of the *Baptist Magazine*), J. W. Richardson, R. W. Overbury, W. Miall, Eustace Carey, Jerome Clapp, of Appledore, G. W. Conder, High Wycombe, and J. Viney; S. M. Peto, Esq., John Lee, Esq., D.C.L. (of Hartwell-park, near Aylesbury), Joseph Sturge, Esq., Colonel T. Perronet Thompson, W. H. Ashurst, Esq., R. Besley, Esq., J. Boyd, Esq., of Edinburgh, J. M. Webb, Esq., J. Scoble, Esq., E. Miall, Esq., D'Arcy Irvine, Esq., A. Pellatt, Esq., Stafford Allen, Esq., G. Simmons, Esq., J. M. Hare, Esq., E. Clarke, Esq., H. Child, Esq., F. Clarke, Esq., J. Kingsley, Esq., J. Hooper, Esq., T. W. Matthews, Esq., John Boyd, Esq. (of Edinburgh), Edward Swaine, Esq., George Wilson, Esq., and A. M. Bidgood, Esq. The meeting was graced by the presence of many ladies.

The chair was taken by Dr. T. Price, the treasurer. The CHAIRMAN said: It is with no ordinary feelings of satisfaction that I take the post assigned to me on the present occasion, deeming that some difficulties may be obviated, and some small perplexity avoided, by the treasurer of the society doing so, rather than looking about for some other and more fitted person to preside over your deliberations. Permit me, then, as I can most unfeignedly, to congratulate you on the circumstances under which, as an association, we meet, and on the appearance which is presented by the present assembly. Certainly, to those among us who took part in the origination of the society, and have since been employed in the conduct of its affairs, an ample reward is found in scenes like the present—scenes which assure us that, amidst many difficulties, amidst obstructions and discouragements of no ordinary kind, the cause in which we are embarked is steadily making progress, and is destined to work out, ultimately at least, that conviction in the popular mind of the country, from which alone beneficial changes can ensue. It is but about two years since we witnessed the origination of this association. Some of us were present when the vessel was launched amidst many predictions of the brevity of her voyage, and the certainty of her soon stranding on some part or other of the coast along which she was about to navigate. Happily, however, she has held on her course; and, if she does not now present the aspect and bearing of a gallant ship, she looks, at all events, like one that purposes to prosecute her voyage, and is destined, at the proper time, to enter the haven to which she looks [loud cheers]. We have been subjected to many misapprehensions—respecting most of which we felt no surprise whatever; it was but natural that they should

exist. That the advocates and upholders of state-churches should regard with great disfavour a movement like that which this Society contemplates, is perfectly natural, and we impute to them no other motives than such as are perfectly honourable. But we cannot understand much of the outcry that has been raised against us; and, therefore, at the risk of repeating things that have been said on former occasions, I am solicitous, at the outset of our proceedings distinctly to state that our Society bears no sectarian character whatever [hear, hear]. Nor is it designed in a greater or less degree, directly or indirectly, to subvert the purposes of any particular ecclesiastical polity, as contrasted with others that may exist among us. It is no more Independent or Congregational than it is Episcopalian; and it is no more directed against Episcopacy as a form of ecclesiastical polity, than against Presbyterianism, or any other of those phases under which the Christian Church is to be discerned. It regards simply the ecclesiastical relationship that subsists by virtue of human laws—laws adopted by our own legislators, under the sanction, in former ages, of the popular mind, and even at the present day sustained to a considerable extent by that sanction. Against this relationship, and this alone, are the movements of this society directed. He, therefore, who represents it as opposed to Episcopacy under any form—whether in the simple form under which it is to be discerned in unendowed churches, or in the form under which it is seen in the national church of this country—does injustice to the movement; and, though unintentionally on his part, misrepresents the facts of the case. The Society regards religion as a matter spiritual in its nature, having respect primarily to the Deity, owing responsibility to him, and not susceptible of government by human interference and legislation, without serious detriment being experienced. This being the case, it interposes its protest against the existing connexion between the secular and ecclesiastical powers of the country; declaring that such connexion is as perplexing and injurious to the body politic as it has been pernicious to the religious interests of the land. As members of the body politic, we affirm that serious wrong is done to us through the medium of these institutions; and as Englishmen, therefore—and more especially as lovers of constitutional liberty—it becomes us to endeavour, in every way that is consistent with the religion we profess, to effect a severance between the parties who thus stand in alliance. Further than this, as members of various religious bodies, we feel bound to protest against the union, and to seek its destruction, by the highest obligations under which we are placed as members of that spiritual brotherhood over which the Divine originator of Christianity is alone authorised to preside. At the same time we are concerned to conduct our controversy in a manner the most consistent possible with the courtesies of society and the amenities of Christian temper [hear, hear]. There are various misapprehensions on this point afloat—and afloat, too, amongst those who ought to be better informed. It is only this day that I have received, through the post, a communication, anonymous, but most respectfully and courteously worded, so far as it is addressed to myself, the tenor of which is, that this movement is not merely ultra in its object, but in its temper and spirit; and is not one calculated to subvert any religious end. The writer avows himself to be a Dissenter; but regrets that the Anti-state-church Association is adapted rather to retard than to advance its object. How such an impression as this can exist we know not, save on a supposition not creditable to the diligence and impartiality of the party concerned. Had our publications been perused, and our meetings attended, no such impression as this could have existed. The course we have pursued has, also, greatly tended to diminish the prejudices with which our movement was formerly regarded. I use the term, not with the intention of reflecting on others, but simply to designate the state of feeling which anticipated our proceedings. We think we have had reason to complain. If some of us had unhappily attached to ourselves a reputation for violence and acrimony, there were others united with us, whose amenity, moderation, and gentlemanly bearing might have been expected to temper our proceedings, and so to have brought out a result, not more indicative of firmness than of the courtesies of life. But we would say, "Let bygones be bygones" [hear, hear]. Let the future evidence a gradual approximation of the two sections of the great body of enlightened voluntarism in the kingdom, until, by their combination, they become sufficiently powerful to bear away before them all the obstruction with which the truth is met [cheers]. I will now briefly detail to you the proceedings of the past year. At the annual meeting of the General Council in 1845, the Executive Committee was directed to fix its attention upon the Parliamentary grant to poor Dissenting ministers—the *Regium Donum*, as it is termed. The Society, consequently, put forth an address to the distributors of that grant, feeling that our consistency as Dissenters, and our honest, unfettered advocacy of the great principle of Voluntarism, required us to wash our hands clean in this matter [cheers]. After eulogising Daniel Katterns, as the author of the reply to Dr. Pye Smith, the Chairman continued: The whole question is now put before, not simply the Nonconformist, but the British public at large, just in such a light as we should wish to see it exhibited, and the Society, at least, stand clear in this matter. The attention of the House of Commons was called to it, and went to a division against the grant; and though, at present, that division failed to accomplish its object, yet I trust the time will come, when the ministers of State and members of the Commons' House, termed representatives of the people [hear, hear]—will find it needful so far to defer to the honest and firm convictions we entertain, as to refuse any longer to insult us by such a grant, or endeavour to hold us up as parties whose practice is utterly irreconcilable with their profession [cheers]. We hold that to receive the pay of the State, in any form and to any extent, whether the penny or the pound, is inconsistent with the character of the allegiance which we owe to the great Head of the Church, and incompatible inherently with the voluntarism to which we are pledged [cheers].

I am glad to announce, that in the arrangements which have taken place in the country, a considerable increase has accrued to the number of our registrars. As this is a title somewhat strange to your ears, I may here explain it: We are under considerable difficulty, from the state of the law regulating societies which contemplate any change in church or state. To avoid the meshes of the law it has been deemed needful, under legal advice, not to form local societies, or even committees, corresponding with us. Members of the Society, as individuals, are competent to act on its behalf. We cannot, therefore, avail ourselves of the ordinary machinery existing in connexion with the religious combinations of the day. We are obliged to betake ourselves to this arrangement, which, until our friends are thoroughly informed on the matter, must somewhat cripple our proceedings. The number of registrars has increased during the year from 100 to 220. So many are employed in various parts of the land in advocating our principles and collecting funds to carry on our operations. At the beginning of the current year, it was deemed advisable to make a special effort to raise £3,000. The Executive Committee resolved on holding a series of meetings, of a kind to suit the social characteristic of our nature—*soirées*. You will recollect the first of those meetings was held in this room; one of the most exhilarating I ever attended. Several other meetings of the kind were held, but the difficulties connected with them were found to be insuperable, and they were consequently abandoned. Meetings, sometimes in the shape of public lectures, at other times similar to the present, have been held in various parts of the country, at which deputations have attended, and explanations been given of the Society's principles and spirit. It is with regret I feel called on in frankness to state, these deputations have not always been welcomed to the extent, or exactly in the spirit, that we would have expected. However, let that be. It is a characteristic of the past. We trust there will be little analogous to it in time to come [hear, hear]. In all parts of the country, and many of the principal towns these meetings have been held; and a very exhilarating effect has been produced. The number of our friends has been greatly increased, and our finances have been somewhat replenished. An organisation has been devised, which, productive to a considerable extent at the moment, promises large results in future. Again, the Society has been engaged in the issue of various publications, doing, through the medium of the press, what its lecturers and speakers have done by the voice. The present age is, happily, an age in which the press is more potent than at any former period. No man, or set of men, can rationally hope to influence, to any considerable extent, the public mind of this country, without engaging the co-operation of the press. Last year, monthly tracts were issued by the Society, expatiating on various branches of the subject. This year, it has been engaged in issuing small pithy "Tracts for the Million," which have been scattered over the length and breadth of the land; imitating, in this respect, the example set us by another association, which, though weak in its infancy, is happily destined soon to witness the accomplishment of its object [great cheering]. And, I confess, that amongst the many pleasing features of our meeting this evening, it is by no means, to my mind, the least, that here—in the very infancy of our being, when just coming as it were into public life, soliciting public notice and favour—we should have on the platform beside your Chairman, the early, constant, indefatigable, and most able champion of the repeal of the corn laws [loud and long-continued applause]. Among the purest satisfactions of that gentleman's heart, it must be by no means the least, to witness the stage to which this great controversy is brought; to see that ere long there will be secured to his fellow-countrymen the boon—the inestimable boon—for which, in days long gone by, when no popularity, like a circle of glory, was about the movement, he was labouring patiently, and, apparently, against all hope. Let us be encouraged by the example, assured that if our cause be equally just, it is destined similarly to triumph [loud cheers]. I will only further add, the Society has engaged the services of a gentleman whom it deems eminently suited as lecturer, to go through the land, giving utterance, by the living voice, to the truth of this cause—only the first of a series of appointments which it contemplates. The most discouraging, in one point of view, while, in another, perhaps, not a little encouraging, is the state of our finances. Happily, we closed the year with a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, though our income had not been equal to our hopes. This, we believe, is, to a great extent, attributable to the public mind being engaged with a great question in which we deeply sympathise; and we trust that, when that question is settled, and the laws which cripple industry erased from the statute-book, we shall receive, not only a great increase to our funds, but, also, to the moral force arrayed in the advocacy of our cause. We ask you, for the future, to give us that support which, from our past doings, you may deem us entitled to; give to us no more; but, let me say, give to us no less. It would be unbecoming in me to detain you longer. I will only add that, as free thought and free speech is the motto of our Society [cheers], no resolution will be submitted to which any gentleman, who will give the guarantee of his name, is desirous of moving an amendment, until that amendment has been fairly submitted. It is my pleasing duty now to call upon

Mr. CHARLES STOVEL to move the first resolution. He said: Before I read the resolution, there are one or two statements by which I would explain the feeling with which it is connected. First, it seems necessary for us always to keep in mind that our exertions in this Society are not directed to any subordinate grievance under which we may labour, as Dissenters or as Churchmen; we have long since passed from that ground, and, from the commencement of this Society, have never looked back to it with regret. We look at grievances only as being the result of a principle; and all our efforts are directed entirely against the principle out of which the grievance springs [hear]. All Dissenting grievances have resulted to us from the union of church and state in their respective policies; and we apprehend that, whenever the movements of Go-

vernment are so conducted as to leave religion altogether to itself, then Dissenters will have no reason to complain against the state—will have no grievances whatsoever. What we wish is, that all parties may be treated with an equal hand, and receive the simple, civil, personal protection which may be, without detriment to the state, faithfully communicated to all. Hence, it certainly ought not to be considered that we are aiming a blow at the just interests of any other party. If there be those who feel that they have interests which are injured by the discussion and promulgation of our principles, the very complaint is a proof that they have interests which are not just [hear, hear]. They must have something derived from their alliance with the state which will not bear the light, and come forward to the tribunal of equity, where justice is equally administered. We are not opposed to other interests, but seeking to lead them to that ground where the highest of all interests may be most perfectly enjoyed; for I hold that the dignity of a man—his peace, the safety of his affairs—above all, that action of the mind whereby he expresses and yields his subjection to God—is most perfectly enjoyed in a conformity to that righteousness which forms the stability even of the throne of God himself. We hold, too, that in yielding this principle to us, Government will confer a benefit on, and relieve itself from the worst and most corrosive of its cares; and that even the Throne will take to itself a dignity, whenever our Monarch shall rise and say, "I am no longer Head of the Church." We disclaim, as far as our modesty will permit us, the alleged ignorance of the practical workings of the great principle of Dissent; at least we who have "borne the heat and burden of the day," ought to be supposed to know something of the disadvantages that attend the working of that principle; and we still hold that religion is best served on the principle which has these disadvantages. It has been said, that religion cannot exist, or, at least, it cannot progress without something of church endowments and national support. Now the fact of the case seems to be very obviously presented to us in the state of affairs which has called for a late rejected bill. There are three or four millions of property, held in trust for various charities, which Government has looked upon and longed [laughter] to bring under its power. Who created that property—the compulsory or the voluntary principle? It was the voluntary principle. Besides, it is said, the dignity, if not the diffusion of truth, requires the aid of Government. I have met with not a few clergymen whom I very much respect as gentlemen and scholars, and with many hundreds of my Dissenting brethren; but where shall I discern that kind of policy which is most dishonouring to our religion? In the men who make the lowest prostration at the feet of Government, seek for the offices of workhouse chaplain or schoolmaster, push their policy through the operations of charities, talk of doing good to the "household of faith" first [laughter]—interfere with Sunday and daily schools; and, on complaint or repression, bring their action of legal process for slander, seizing the technicalities of law, and turning them against the principles of righteousness [loud cheers]—pushing the law to its utmost extreme with personal malignancy—where do we find the men who are prepared to do this? I look not to the individual who stalks in solemn pomp through the empire, but to the man who moves, with some bluntness of manner, it may be, but still with a certain stubborn integrity—loving his principles so much that he can bear poverty, reproach, and wrong for them—I look to him to give dignity and honour to his teachings of the Gospel. I cannot help feeling, that Church endowment and Government aid have actually generated a principle and a method—a temper of mind, a system of policy, which tend altogether to degrade the name of the Redeemer; and therefore I feel the greater objection to the principle, and the greater adherence to that which we seek to advance. Among the many other things which seem to me encouraging, one is, the constancy of our statements and our friends. Here I have, on the paper before me, the same words retained, without any modification, since the commencement of our society. Yet, after all that has been suggested by the open foe, and by the more polished (for they said they were the gentlemen Dissenters) who stood away from us—after all the way that we have pioneered out—after all that Edward Miall and others have written—we see no reason to alter one word in the expression of our principle. And our friends, too, are constant to their principles, after all the struggle and trial which have attended them. There is one here to-night whose presence would be an answer to me if I were to say, "Sir, have you any suspicion rising in your mind respecting the truthfulness of our principles now, that you had not in your youthful ardour?" I might ask my friend Miall, after all the struggle he has had to pass through in the conduct of the Press—and what I will now call his recent personal injury [cheers]—persuaded, as I am, that such an action as that brings not only pecuniary injury but moral reflections; and I expect that the friends of our principle will rally round him, and show that they regard in this light only his personal wrong; I would ask, has his heart lost its steadfastness to the good cause? I am persuaded he will say, in many ways, most distinctly, that these principles are only the more endeared to him by the conflict which he has passed through, on their behalf. And I have a *Witness* [loud and continued cheering] by my side. I would say to him—and he shall presently answer for himself—Are you prepared to bear a testimony to the principle for which we contend, and which we are labouring to advance? Many who were wavering and hesitating, have become decided. It is as it was upon a certain gap, that Shakespeare tells us of, when three wondrous ragged beings stood to face a flying crowd, and there cried, "Stand, stand!" until they turned the field of flight into one of victory. So a few, who have been called the off-scouring of Dissent, have cried, "Stand!" and one after another has turned round and faced the foe; and one after another, turning and facing the heated and roused adversary, is intended to teach us, that presently victory shall be shouted all through the camp [loud applause]. There are two points which make me feel more strongly than ever on

behalf of our principle, apart from the civil grievances, the temporal injuries that fell upon us. It seems to me, by just taking the gospel as it is from its Author, and following out the application of its rules, we do keep most constantly in communion with its Author; and, whatever form of church or governmental policy puts any authority between him and God, reduces his religion to an ungodly character, and will ultimately reduce him to an ungodly man. And then, as to the advancement of truth, it is not money, it is not opinion, it is not instrumentality, or method. What we need, in order to give Christianity power over the world, and lead it on to its triumph, is—first, that those who are Christians should be really in communion with Christianity's God; and, secondly, should stand out before the world in all the beauty of their professed character. When we are thus brought in connexion with our God, and thus approximate to the spirit of the Redeemer, then shall we attain to what is said of the church—"She is fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army with banners" ["Hear, hear," and cheers]. Much has been said lately about the importance of keeping in abeyance the great principle of the Society, in order to secure Christian union. I do not mean to speak here against the Evangelical Alliance, or any means that may be used to secure the union of Christians on earth. But this I say, Christians can never be united by foregoing a truth that involves the honour of their God [cheers]. Christ does not mean to have all men knocked down into one—all minds pressed into the scope of one. He does not intend to have one great man upon the earth any more than one great leaf, or one great tree, or one great flower, in a forest; but many trees, many leaves, many flowers, many men. Christians all harmonising in their action—manifest as regards the body, but all deriving life from the same source, pointing to the same heaven, and rejoicing in the benediction of the same Father. This I expect when Christians are more perfectly Christians; and when the spirit of Christ has imbued them all [loud cheers]. With these feelings I submit the following resolution:—

That this meeting gladly avails itself of the opportunity afforded it by the second anniversary of the British Anti-state-church Association, to declare its unabated confidence in the truth, and its growing sense of the importance of the fundamental principle on which the Society is based,—that "in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments, in affairs of religion, is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application, by law, of the resources of the state to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction, is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the Word of God."

Rev. W. Brock, of Norwich, seconded the motion. He spoke to the following effect: One thing said about us in the provinces is, that we shall excite the animosity of the state-church. "How foolish you are," they say, "you might be on good terms." Well, but at what expense? Why, we must suppress that which this meeting would hold it to be a sin to suppress. I don't want to be lampooned by the fiddlers, or to be censured by the grave; but I remember what the apostle said, "If it be possible, live peaceably with all men;" intimating that it is not always possible. And as to this friendship, before the Anti-state-church Association came up, were there no infringements of our liberties? No putting the strong hand of the law upon us? Was everything so very amicable? Then, it is said, "you are so extremely political;" said, too, by the most political people in the country. I think it is high time we had done with that squeamishness—that one-sided squeamishness—which leads a man to say, "I must not meddle with politics" [cheers]. I meddle with everything that appertains to the benefit of my fellow-men and to the glory of my God. But they say, also, "You will impede the progress of evangelical truth." I believe no man can promote truth who acts the hypocrite. Every man who is a Dissenter believes Dissent to be right, or he should cease to be one; and if he believes it, he ought to say so. Now, I want to know whether I shall retard or promote the advance of evangelical truth, if I am a hypocrite or an honest man? Another objection is a singular one. "It is utterly useless. Look at the Universities, all against you—at the Court, all against you—the army and the navy, all against you" [laughter]. Well, so everything was against Nehemiah when he was building the wall. People said, "What do these feeble Jews; if a fox go by he would tumble down the wall." Or, as a modern Nonconformist periodical says, "Your means are sadly disproportioned to your end." So were the rams' horns blown round Jericho, gentlemen; yet the walls fell down flat [cheers]. We have not to do with results—but to do right. Principle, not accidents, is our rule of action. The resolution speaks of an "encroachment upon the rights of man." Everybody admits that he has given up some of his rights to the State. There is a certain point up to which we must relinquish our natural rights in order to obtain the safety and security of the body-politic. But I think I can show you that in connecting the church with the State, there is an encroachment upon your rights. Look at our executive and legislative—at every department of our government; and tell me if you think the gentlemen composing it have to do with anything but our secular interests? They have to do, I take it, with the guardianship of our property, the protection of our homes and persons, and when they have done that, I should say, Now gentlemen, let well alone. But when they come to deal with the welfare of our souls, that is downright invasion. Some say, May they not do everything? Certainly not. There are five hundred things they may not do. They may not trench on that prerogative which belongs to God alone. Look at Henry VIII., with his sycophants; and Charles II., with his sycophants—and they were as bad; and George IV., with his myrmidons—as bad as any; and tell me, if they were the men to legislate about the purity of the church of Christ? A state church is necessarily an invasion of the rights of man. I hate—I abhor that word "toleration" [cheers]. A man flatters no feeling of my nature by telling me I am tolerated; for I recollect the right to tolerate involves the right to prohibit. Just

see, now, how the Government, in spite of all the pressure from without, gives us an authorised version of the Scriptures, and licenses places of worship, and maintains the ecclesiastical courts. Why, we might do twenty things to-morrow which would put us into the inner prison, and make our feet fast in the stocks [cheers]. I say to the man who gives me a creed to believe, or form of worship to go through, "I came into the world with these questions foreclosed. I came into the world as a dependent creature of God. I am not bound to listen to you. God laid me under an embargo, to maintain my heart and affections exclusively for himself. I may or I may not be a member of any civil community, but I am of necessity a child of God, and bound in allegiance to him. When any make these assumptions, I am bound to say, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?' [cheers]. The honour of God is touched. Man has vaulted into a position which belongs to God alone: shall we, then, be told our aggression is ill-timed? I say, it cannot be ill-timed. We have only to go on distributing information and diffusing truth. I believe the end is nearer than we generally expect. I rejoice in the contemplation of that end. Just think of the Christian Church when it had no state alliance—when the "powers that be" were dead against it. What was the position of Christianity then? Far loftier than now. There was a beggared priesthood—there were deserted temples—there were neglected altars; and the authorities were forced to say "What shall we do? The men that turn the world upside down have come hither also!" The Church had then nothing but its own resources to rely upon—simple in its dependence upon the power of God. What is it now? A great and powerful body, bound about with fetters of brass. But when we shall have broken these fetters, the Church shall come forth "rejoicing like a strong man to run a race." All things are favourable to us. All events, at home and abroad, are only accelerating that time when "the kingdom of God shall not be meat nor drink; but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Dr. CAMPBELL proposed the next resolution, and said: There have been some allusions to our name, and to the impression, unfavourable to us, existing in the minds of some excellent men. I wish we had designated the Society, "The Christian Union Association" [laughter]. That is our true name. We must not determine the position of this question by its position in the House of Commons. Suppose Mr. Hindley were to make a motion there for the separation of church and state: it would be laughed at. But I appeal to another quarter. I have just been casting my eye over the three kingdoms. I look across the channel. I see there an establishment, perhaps the most monstrous upon which the sun ever shone. It is very true, the House of Commons will scorn any proposition to pull it down. But suppose there existed a Parliament on College-green (let no man misapprehend me), let there be a polling of the Irish people; and when the first night of that Parliament's meeting comes, let the question be discussed. It would not be a long debate. In Ireland Establishments are doomed. Suppose, again, a Parliament sitting in Scotland, and one of the first questions brought on is the Scotch Establishment; would any man of sense say, that the votes would not be almost unanimous for the abolition of the Scotch Establishment? Very well. I come to England. The battle is to be fought here; and our business is, to do the very thing we are doing—create public opinion where it is not, and foster public opinion where it is. We have to consolidate the classes of English society, to pour light upon the public mind. When the matter comes to be understood, the Church of England will be found to be very weak. Government has no interest in it. It is their prime plague—their principal difficulty. For remember a certain Premier's unsanctified mode of expressing his difficulty in private: "It's that—church." As to the poor clergy—the mass of the clergy—they have no interest in it; its downfall would be their emancipation. The good men would prodigiously find their account in it. Among the best of the people we have friends—among the mass of the people, who care nothing about it, we have friends. I will say, then, it is among the very weakest of very weak things. It is well to draw, in cases of this description, upon history. There was a time when over the whole of the American colonies there were State establishments. The movement against them, beginning in the worst of places—Virginia, after a tremendous struggle, succeeded. It went on—north, south, east, and west. In some places, Independency—in others, very largely, Episcopacy—was established; and in forty years the whole of the states separated. At this moment, not one man in any of the states regrets it—not one man would hold up his hand for a return to state-pay and state bondage. There is a sentence I will give as a motto for our proceedings, from that admirable historian, D'Aubigné—"The strength of Christianity is neither in the force of arms, flames, scaffolds, party policy, or human power; but in a simple, unanimous, courageous confession of the great truths which must one day prevail over the world." We are a body of confessors. We are just as confident our principles will prevail over England and the world, as that the sun will rise to-morrow [applause]. The following is the resolution I propose:—

That this meeting gratefully acknowledged the measure of success which has followed the operations of the Association; and rejoices in the extent to which it has been able to diffuse a knowledge of its principles, and to awaken towards them an enlightened and earnest attachment; and that, in the judgment of this meeting, past events and future prospects illustrate with equal force the duty of all who desire the emancipation of Christ's church from magisterial interference and control, and to render to the Society all the countenance and support they may be able to command.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., seconded the motion.

The Chairman here announced a donation of £50, and one of £5, handed to him from gentlemen on the platform. The motion was put, and carried unanimously.

J. LEE, Esq., D.C.L., of Hartwell-park, near Aylesbury, proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting respectfully proffers its thanks to the committee and officers of the Association—to the writers of

the several tracts published under its sanction—and to those gentlemen who, in connexion with it, have aided at public meetings in producing conviction and impression upon the public mind; and this meeting earnestly requests them to persevere in their noble undertaking, cheered by the hope, that the fruit of their labours, if not immediately apparent, will, at no distant period, prove sufficiently abundant to repay the most anxious and unremitting toil.

The Rev. J. BURNET seconded the motion. He said: We are often told there are no respectable persons that would take up the course which the Anti-state-church Association is disposed to pursue; and that it will seriously annoy Church-people. Now, I am glad to say, Dr. Lee is at once a respectable person and a Churchman, and presents in his own person a refutation of the statement often made, that we have neither the respectable portion of society, nor any portion of the church along with us. When the exiled king, Louis XVIII., was driven from the continent of Europe by the tyrant who then swayed its destinies, and was led to seek a palace in England, and find a throne among its generous people, where did he find a palace?—where did he hold his court? In Hartwell-house, the palace of Dr. Lee; and a worthy palace it certainly is. I have no doubt, Louis XVIII. found himself more happy in the palace of Dr. Lee than he afterwards found himself in the Tuilleries. Indeed, I know that he said so himself. Then, with regard to the churchmanship of our friend. The parish church is in his own park. Yet he comes manfully forward and tells us, he desires to have that church severed alike from State direction and State support. Without dealing further with circumstances connected with persons who may appear among us, let me for a moment turn your attention to the ground upon which we must resist the claims of the State to give us religion; for to support Christianity is to give it to us, most assuredly. We naturally ask, what is the State? It must be a very religious body. There must be everything that is pious and grave, everything that is praiseworthy and of good report in the body that is to give the nation its religion. But when we come to look at that body, what are they? A combination of Papists and infidels, army and navy officers, people that are nothing at all, and people that are everything but what is good; and these are the people that find our religion, that give it to us ready made—but not for nothing [laughter]. There are five admirals, well calculated to give us theology, but better fitted to give us a broadside; two lieutenant-generals, twenty-six colonels of the army and militia, twenty-four lieutenant-colonels, fifty captains in the army and navy, twelve lieutenants, and seven cornets, all well calculated to make a religion, and give it to us, you will allow. What an array of men to make Christianity! They ought all to put on their uniforms to grace the day on which they assemble for that purpose. Really this is a solemn farce! I am quite satisfied the colonel who sits by me will not feel at all offended if I tell him the individuals to whom I allude are not fit to give the nation religion, even if he were added to the number; and I am sure I wish he were [great cheers]. But really if we are to look to these men to give us a religion—why, if they are worthy of their professions, the studies to which they must have attended are very different from those which would qualify them to give a nation religion. If we are to take religion from these men, we are in a sad plight. I might give you as many barristers, and others, as competent as these to give a nation religion, if competency to do that lies in a man's having it himself. What are the means which they propose to employ? Are they ready to become itinerant teachers, and thus instruct the people? Pretty work they would make of it, if they attempted it. They would not let a preacher—not even one of their own ministers—sit among them. The means they employ are acts of Parliament. They give you creeds, to which you must declare your attachment. This is one way. And then they connect something with religion. They connect force with religion, in order to secure the money. Why, there is something in this so very like the footpad, that one would not expect to see it connected with religion. Who are the persons they make to pay? Look at the country at large, and will any one say, that with all its police-establishments, its gaols, judges, and magistrates, that this is a Christian and religious country? Yet from all the people, over the length and breadth of the land, they exact payment for religion. If the irreligious should say, "We want no religion at all;" "Never mind," they would reply, "you must pay for it" [laughter and cheers]. There appears something like burlesque in this mode of viewing the question; yet it is the true view of the question [hear, hear]. If you inquire how we are to remedy this, we say, it wants not the use of any violent means. We love our country and our country's peace; and we intend to do whatever we do for our country's interests peacefully. It is just because we love our country's peace, that we press the separation of the church from the state. The resolution I have to second speaks of tracts. That is just the way to fill the public mind with that measure of information before which the tie that binds the church to the state must necessarily be broken. Light is necessary to do the work. Let light be diffused through the medium of "Tracts for the Million" (there cannot be a better medium), and it is utterly impossible that church and state can remain together when all the people are enlightened. When they are fairly represented in the House of Commons [loud cheers] that House will embody in its proceedings the mind of the nation; and the mind of the nation being convinced that church and state ought to be separated, will receive that separation at the hand of its representatives [cheers]. We are in the land of movements. Everything is moving. Steam-engines are moving—the suffrage is moving. There was a time when they remained stationary; and it was thought a wonderful thing to build them up in a wall. But now they are running over all the world. Trade, science, and the arts are moving [loud cheers]—reform is moving, and the corn laws are moving [renewed cheers]. Men are brushing their brains [laughter]. The cobwebs are being wiped away from them. They are beginning to think more soundly and more justly. Therefore we are not to look to this single movement—to measure our prospects merely

by ourselves. We are to look to ourselves as part of the great army of progress in this nation, and every nation throughout Europe. We are sometimes branded with ugly names. I don't mind it myself, except so far as it may hurt our cause. Dissent is thought a very bad thing—just tolerable, and no more; tolerated, like other nuisances that cannot be removed: nothing more. We Dissenters are schismatics. Now I deny that we are Dissenters [laughter]. Christianity was originally what we wish it to become again. The Church-people are Dissenters from us [loud cheers]. They allow to us that Christianity was on the voluntary principle for 300 years. Who left the voluntary principle? They did [cheers]. Then they are the Dissenters. First, they became Popish, and then—at the introduction of the Reformation—Protestant Dissenters. Now we can tell them to become Primitive Churchmen again. You have tried Dissent, we say, in various forms; now come back to the Mother Church [much laughter and cheering]. Come back to the throne of Him who is the only Head of the Church from which the people you so much dislike never turned away. From the time that the Redeemer sent forth his apostles down to the present day, there have been men who counted not their lives or property dear to them, so that they might testify the Gospel. These are the men who constitute the true apostolical succession—the men who have brought down, embodied in their history, and illustrated by their practice, the Gospel of Christ. We have the honour of moving in their wake, when we are seeking the abolition of the connexion between Church and State. The men who have written your tracts deserve your credit. Some of these are young, rising, and have a reputation which they may not be inclined to have assailed. Some are of an elder class; but both the one and the other are entitled to your credit, for standing up and advocating a movement, unpopular in some quarters, though growing in popularity in others. Let us rejoice in our onward progress. Your presence here to-night, and up to this hour of the night—many of you unable to find seats—is a pledge of your determination never to desert the cause of the Anti-State-Church Association, until you shall have seen it led forth to a marked—a decisive victory [loud and continued applause].

Colonel THOMPSON, on rising to support the resolution, was enthusiastically cheered. He said: The earliest impressions made upon my mind were in favour of entire and absolute religious liberty to all. I would not present myself before you as moved by any animosity to the Establishment. I am rather, perhaps, from my past connexions, to be suspected of viewing her failings with too favourable an eye: for many of my earliest friends have been in stations in that Establishment—and those to whom I owe all that I have of mental plenishing were members or dignitaries of that church. Why is it, then, that I, who have no bitter feeling against that church, as a church, am obliged to join you on occasions like this? It is because that church does not keep a proper discipline over her members, nor use proper precautions to keep down the feelings of those who are injured. If I had not seen some instances of her excessive pretensions, I doubt whether I should have rubbed up my half-forgotten Greek, to inquire into the origin of the claim they put forth [hear, hear]. Let them follow after a bishop or archbishop, or what corruption of a Greek name they like; but if they say, "We are the sole church, and ought to be dominant, and will be dominant, if we are able"—then I feel my sense of justice roused—I cannot stand so barefaced an imposition [much cheering]. Do you, ladies, know—it is important you should know—that bishop comes in this manner: the Greek word for overseer is *episcopus*, which has been corrupted thus,—*piscopus*, *biscopus*, *bishop* [laughter]. I wonder we have never had a claim of divine right set up for aldermen [renewed laughter]—as derived from elders or presbyters. We live in days in which abuses should not reckon on impunity because of their age. We see old abuses coming down, and shaking others in their fall [cheers]. The example of those who have shaken them will not be lost upon any body of men who have a wrong to abate, an evil to bring to a conclusion. Among the many great causes which will speedily make head in this country, yours will undoubtedly be in the forefront of the contest. Not one word have I heard to-night which could be criticised either for want of moderation, or want of resolution. Statesmen have found out that public opinion must be conciliated before opposition to it goes too far. You need not despair, though dark days should follow for a time. When the sun once begins to rise, no man can tell how fast the operation will take place. We have only to go on as others have gone before us. I trust we shall meet to congratulate each other, and congratulate our country, upon the completion of our effort. Of the tracts I have heard mentioned—I know little. They are potent weapons in your army. Fire a tract at a man, and you often open a road to make him your friend. It is by following up that method, that great causes have been won before. I see no reason to despair that you shall soon arrive at all you can wish or can obtain [loud cheers].

Here a loud and general call for Mr. Miall being made, the Chairman stated, that when the resolution just submitted to them had received their sanction that gentleman would respond to it. The motion having been carried unanimously, the Chairman announced that he had just had put into his hand by a friend £50, and £5 from Joseph Sturge, Esq.

Mr. E. MIALL rose amidst repeated bursts of applause. He said: I have been requested by my colleagues on the Executive Committee to respond to the vote of thanks you have this night passed. I do so with the deepest gratitude for your kindness; and I am sure that those who are connected with me—the friends who are toiling and constantly labouring for the advancement of this cause—after the satisfaction that we derive from the consciousness of being engaged in advancing great principles of truth, will find most pleasure in your approbation. I think we need thanks, if we do not deserve them. Our work is not altogether that which the flesh would choose. We have been obliged to make large sacrifices of time, and some of us

of reputation. But we know that our task is daily becoming more easy, and our toil will soon be more light. The question is making great progress. Mr. Burnet gave you a long catalogue of things that are moving. I think he should have said, to make his climax perfect, that the Lords are moving [cheers], and they are moving in our direction. Strangely enough, now that their interests in the Corn-law question are taken from before their eyes, they can see a great deal further into ecclesiastical questions than they could before. In their Committee Lord Stradbroke, an ultra Tory and high Churchman, suggested, and put his suggestion in the form of a resolution—that the tithes were but an abstraction of money from the pockets of the landlords: that, consequently, the property of the Church can be fairly alienated for their purposes, and the vacuum filled up from the Consolidated Fund. How do you think the suggestion was received? Scouted, you will say, with indignation. No; they looked at it carefully, discussed it, came to a division upon it—the ayes and noes were equal, and so the question was lost. But are we to let several millions of Church property be transferred into the pockets of the landowners? We must teach them better ecclesiastical knowledge than that. They have all told us, again and again, that Church property is inalienable—held by a tenure more ancient and sacred than any land held by prince or peer. I hope we shall show that we understand, also, something about Church property; and that it does not belong to Churchmen as such—certainly that it does not belong to Dissenters as such; but it belongs to the nation [cheers]. It has hitherto been appropriated to purposes of religion, professedly—it has been very badly appropriated; when applied to secular purposes it will be extremely useful. That being done, the dispute will not go on much longer. The Houses of Lords and Commons seldom debate principles unless something is to be got out of them; and when the property is abstracted from the Church, and applied, as it ought to be, to secular uses, I think there will be no difficulty about the matter. They will forget the responsibility when the pay is withdrawn. All we have to do, is to scatter the seed of truth—to be "instant in season and out of season." We have, in fact, but to be true to those principles which have been implanted in our hearts. Whether it be in our own lifetime, or in the next generation—or whenever it may be—the time will come when the kingdoms of the earth will be separated from the kingdom of Christ. He himself will preside over the affairs of his Church. All men will rejoice in greater liberty, both civil and ecclesiastical; and the truth will go forth triumphantly over the whole globe [loud and continued applause].

The CHAIRMAN then dissolved the meeting.

A collection was made at the close, which amounted to between £16 and £17.

IMPORTANT CHURCH-RATE CASE.

CORNWALL AND PAINE v. WOODS.

This church-rate case was heard before the Court of Arches (Sir H. J. Fust presiding) on Friday the 22nd ult. It was instituted by the churchwardens of Elstead, in the county of Surrey, and was brought by letters of request from the commissary of Surrey.

The libel was admitted without opposition. It pleaded that the rate was made in the usual form, that the vestry was duly assembled, and that a rate of 6d. in the pound was carried by a majority, most of the parishioners having since paid the sum at which they were assessed. An additional article was afterwards given, pleading that Mr. Woods had been summoned before the magistrates, and, by objecting to the validity of the rate, had ousted their jurisdiction. A responsive allegation was offered and admitted, in which the defence set up was twofold; first, that Mr. Bluck, a parishioner, but not the incumbent, was put into the chair without being duly elected; and secondly, that, notwithstanding a majority voted against the rate, Mr. Bluck declared that it was duly carried.

Dr. Adams contended that the rate was completely and satisfactorily proved, and that there never had been a more vexatious opposition than this. It was admitted that the church was in want of repairs; that an estimate had been duly laid before the vestry, and that a rate of 6d. in the pound had been proposed. He submitted that the evidence clearly showed that Mr. Bluck had been regularly moved and seconded to the chair, and that numerically the majority of the parishioners in the vestry were in favour of the rate. That view must have been taken at the time: if not, why did not the dissentients demand a poll? The fact was, it was a scheme; the parties had dug a pit into which they had themselves fallen, and must bear the consequences. He prayed the court to pronounce for the rate and condemn Mr. Woods in the costs.

Dr. Haggard, on behalf of Woods, submitted that, so far from this being a factious opposition, the rate was void *ab initio*. The motion that Mr. Bluck should take the chair had never been seconded. The witnesses on the allegation all concurred in stating that the votes against the rate were nearly in the proportion of two to one. The attention of the chairman was called to it instantly, but he stated that he was quite satisfied as to the decision he had given. He prayed the court to dismiss the suit.

The learned judge was of opinion that Mr. Bluck had been duly appointed to the chair: or, if not, the irregularity had been cured by the parties allowing him to remain in it. If the parishioners thought that the chairman had come to a wrong decision, they ought to have demanded a poll. They had not done so; he must therefore pronounce for the rate, and condemn Mr. Woods in the costs of the proceedings.

From a handbill circulated in Elstead we glean the following facts in relation to this case:—"On Mr. Woods being called upon for payment of this most unjust tax, he objected on the ground of the unfairness of the proceedings. After much consideration on the part of the churchwardens, they made a fair proposal to Mr. Woods, viz.—that he and the principal churchwardens should go to the Bench and request as a favour of the magistrates that they would decide for them whether the rate was good or bad; this was done, and the magistrates unanimously pronounced the

rate to be bad. After this decision, new light flashed on the mind of the other churchwarden, and he summoned Mr. Woods to appear at the Bench. The magistrates expressed their surprise that having once decided the question at the request of his colleague, they should hear any more about it; of course they could say no more than they had said." Shortly after Mr. Woods was cited to appear in the Ecclesiastical Court, and has there been ordered to pay the rate and costs amounting to about £200. Mr. Woods is a churchman, and has been chosen churchwarden for the last six or seven years.

For further particulars relative to this case, we would call attention to an advertisement in another column.

CLERICAL HEROISM.—The Rev. G. G. Beadon, rector of Axbridge, has had the manliness, even with the fear of ecclesiastical censure before his eyes, to refuse to read the thanksgiving for our recent victories in India, appointed to be used in all churches. This is the only instance, with which we are acquainted, of a clergyman protesting against the infamous proceeding; a proceeding which was scandalous to religion, a sarcasm on the common justice and benevolence of man—an attempt to associate human butchery with God.—*Notts Review*.

CHURCH-RATE SEIZURES IN BRISTOL.—During the past fortnight several wholesale seizures have been made for church-rates, in one of the parishes of this city; chiefly from members of the Society of Friends. The total amount of the rates demanded was £14 17s. 1d. and the costs 11s. in each case. The value of the goods seized, which consisted almost entirely of silver spoons, was £22 13s. 6d.

CHURCH RATES.—The churchwardens of Brighton, in trying to raise a sixpenny rate for the restoration and enlargement of the old church of St. Nicholas, have sustained a signal defeat. They were beaten by a large majority at the vestry meeting, when a show of hands was taken, after which they demanded a poll, which was kept open till Saturday evening, when the numbers stood thus:—Against the rate 1,328; for the rate 754. Majority against the rate 574.

ABRIDGMENT OF THE HOURS OF BUSINESS.—On Friday afternoon, a numerous meeting of the friends to the abridgment of the hours of business was held at the Hanover-square Rooms, Lord Ashley in the chair. In opening the business, the noble lord strongly urged the principle, and expressed a hope that it would be universally extended. Mr. Nash, the secretary, stated that the £5,000 fund was most satisfactorily advancing, and that a further appeal to the public by means of an essay, the prize for which had been awarded to the Rev. Dr. Bennet, of Islington, and editor of the *Watchman*, was about to be made. The Bishop of Norwich, in proposing the first resolution, stated that in the city of Norwich, where the movement was commenced but a few months back, the object had been received with the greatest sympathy by the inhabitants. The effect was that upwards of 400 young men, who had not previously the time, had joined the Athenæum there, and employed their leisure hours in moral and mental cultivation [cheers]. Lord Robert Grosvenor, in moving the second resolution, expressed his conviction that this country could maintain its great commercial supremacy without subjecting the labouring classes to moral and physical deterioration from over-work. The Honourable and Rev. Baptist Noel moved the third resolution, pledging the meeting to support the efforts of the Metropolitan Drapers' Association, by making no purchases after seven o'clock in the evening, and to discountenance the practice on the part of others. Lord Dudley Stuart, in seconding this proposition, stated the advantages which had already resulted by the abridgment of the labour of milliners in the metropolis by one hour, and those which would, in all probability, result from extending the benefit to all other trades and professions. Mr. J. S. Buckingham, Mr. Wyse, M.P., and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and thanks having been awarded to the noble chairman, it separated.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.—LEARNING A LESSON FROM THE STATE SCHOOLMASTER.—William Bowman, a London lad, had been a spectator, for several years, of every execution that took place in that city. No such spectacle, provided by the State as a "great moral lesson," had been neglected by William Bowman. He had also read every narrative of a murder or execution that he could lay hands upon, and made the disgusting details the theme of conversation with his friends. He derided the notion that hanging was a severe punishment, contending that it was none at all. Such was William Bowman, when, at the age of seventeen, he became a resident in Clive-street, North Shields, with an elder brother, a hair-dresser. On Sunday last, they received a visit from their father, now living in Newcastle; and in the evening he returned by the train—his elder son and his daughter-in-law accompanying him to the train. William, who had scalded his foot, could not leave the house. On the return of the hair-dresser and his wife, they found the front-door locked, and no one answered their knockings. A side-door, leading from a passage, was therefore broken open. The hero of our paragraph was then discovered suspended from the ceiling, habited in exact imitation of a criminal whom he had recently seen strangled. His legs were tied—his arms had apparently been partially pinioned, but one had broken loose from the other in the death-struggle—a nightcap was drawn over his face. The rope was drawn through a ring-bolt at the ceiling, and the suicide had used a chair as his platform. No other cause can be assigned for the crime, than a morbid curiosity to learn one lesson more at the hands of the State instructor, and play the principal part in a drama which he so often had looked upon with delight. An inquest was held on Tuesday, before S. Reed, Esq., when the jury, coming to the conclusion that the youth had merely been trying an experiment, returned a verdict to the effect that he had destroyed himself unintentionally.—*Gateshead Observer*.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

THE CORN BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday evening, the adjourned debate on the second reading of the Corn Bill was resumed by

Earl GREY, who, after complimenting Lord Stanley, pointed out that the defenders of protection always evaded one point, which lay at the root of the matter—that, in aiming at what was termed a remunerating price for corn, they were raising by artificial means the price of food for the people. The interest of the consumer was overlooked in zeal for that of the producer; and, in arguing for a steady price in the home market, it was forgotten that our manufacturers worked not for this country alone, but for the whole world. The one fact of corn being obtained from France in 1810 was conclusive against the allegation of our supplies being cut off by war; whilst steadiness of price was best secured by extending the range of supply. A corn-law was a tax on the consumers of this country of no less than £10,000,000 annually, not for the real, but the imaginary benefit of a particular class. It was clear to Lord Grey's mind that the corn-law inflicted a double disadvantage upon the labouring classes:—

So far from the high price of corn entailed by the corn laws being counterbalanced by an increase of their wages, those laws, while they enhanced the price of food, depressed the wages by which that food was to be purchased. If he was right in this opinion—if such was really the effect of the corn-laws upon the condition of the labourer—that one fact ought to be conclusive, without any further argument on this question; and, as a Christian Legislature, if they were once satisfied of that fact, no consideration ought to prevent them from at once sweeping away the existing restrictions. He warned the Lords against producing a panic among the farmers by exaggerated statements about the enormous quantities of corn at a very low price which could be introduced into this country. They knew that, in 1842, those who called themselves the farmers' friends inflicted most serious injury upon those farmers who were simple enough to rely upon their predictions as to the probable effects of the Tariff. It is evident, from the rise which has taken place in rent, from the spirit with which improvements have been prosecuted, that the farmers themselves anticipate no injury.

He proceeded to combat Lord Stanley's statistics:—

Lord Stanley, on the authority of a Liverpool correspondent of high standing as a corn merchant, had told the House that there were at present in this country two cargoes of wheat, which had been purchased at Dantzic, and which had cost only about 23s. per quarter, including freight to this country. But Lord Grey had received a communication from a gentleman at Liverpool, describing himself to be well acquainted with the circumstances of this case, which threw a very different light on the transaction. [He proceeded to read several extracts from the communication. The writer said it was perfectly true that Lord Stanley's correspondent held two cargoes of red wheat from Dantzic, which only cost him the price mentioned in his letter. It might be inferred from this that wheat might be shipped at Dantzic at 14s. a quarter free on board. But the fact was, the wheat referred to by Lord Stanley's informant was ordered in 1844 by a house in Manchester, who sold it at a loss of 10s. the quarter, the original cost having been 33s. the quarter, including freight; but the glorious uncertainty of the sliding scale prevented its being released from bond, and it was eventually sold to Lord Stanley's correspondent at 23s. 6d. per quarter. The writer further stated that, from the Mediterranean, middling qualities of wheat could not be shipped free on board at less than 35s. per quarter; and the expense of freight was nearly double that from the Baltic. The writer also added that Lord Stanley's informant had bought, on the preceding day, a cargo of red Weimar wheat at about 45s. the quarter, which, allowing 10s. per quarter for duty, would make it cost 55s.] The writer of this letter further stated that the wheat purchased by his noble friend's correspondent at 14s. was now worth 25s. the quarter; but that it was of mixed and very inferior quality, and that it was liable to become heated during its transit, which rendered it unfit for food. It appeared, then, that the wheat referred to could not be imported into this country and sold at a profit at a lower price than our own wheat was at this time obtaining in the British market.

He replied to the arguments of Lord Stanley respecting the injury which their free-trade measures would inflict upon our colonies, instancing the case of Canada, the Legislature of which had agreed to the repeal of the 3s. duty on the importation of American corn, as a proof that the colonies themselves did not regard these measures with the same alarm as was evinced by his noble friend. The noble earl, in the course of his speech, spoke as follows of the Anti-corn-law League:—

He admitted that the existence of the Anti-corn-law League was a great evil. He must not, however, be understood as throwing any blame upon the leaders of the League; in his opinion, the country and their lordships owed a debt of gratitude to the leaders of that body, and more especially to Mr. Cobden. It was to him, to his genius, his indefatigable energy, and his perseverance, and not to Sir Robert Peel [cheers]—not to the party in Parliament with which he acted—no, it was to his honourable friend Mr. Cobden that they and the country were indebted for the achievement of what he considered one of the most important measures for the future welfare of the body of the people which had ever received the sanction of Parliament. To him the country was deeply indebted; he had achieved this triumph by means altogether unexceptionable; he had not appealed to physical force, he had made no display of formidable multitudes [“Because he could not!” exclaimed one of the Peers]. He had not done so, because he thought—and justly thought—that the proper way to act and to operate upon Parliament was through the opinions of the nation. He thought that the most effectual means he could adopt were, by showing the opinion of the nation, to teach the Parliament and the manufacturers the real interests of the community; and, considering the time during which there had been these great conversions of opinion, his success appeared almost miraculous. Still, Lord Grey thought that the existence of the Anti-corn-law League was an evil; and he believed that if they asked Mr. Cobden himself, he would be of the same opinion [hear, hear]. It was an evil; but it must be remembered that such a body never could exist unless from the fullest and most hopeless sense of wrong and of injury.

In conclusion, he expressed a fervent hope that the House would pass the second reading of the bill by a large majority.

Lord ASHBURTON said the bill came before the House in a very humble form—that of a bill to regulate the

trade in corn—but it was, in reality, a formidable measure, calculated to alter the whole system, colonial, monetary, and commercial, of this great country. The bill was founded upon a case of distress in Ireland, which, it would be admitted, had been greatly exaggerated, and which, at all events, might have been relieved by the temporary opening of the ports; and it was sustained by the argument that, it being necessary to open the ports to relieve that distress, it would be impossible to close them again. He would ask why it should be impossible so to close when the cause of opening them was at an end? They had been opened before when corn was extravagantly high, and closed again when the evil was remedied; and why that course should not have been again pursued, he was at a loss to imagine. The effect of the bill, if it should pass, would be to bring an overpowering supply into the market; and, if it should be followed by a good harvest, prices would fall as low, or, perhaps, lower, than they had ever been in this country. He was so convinced of this that he had advised his own tenantry to send their produce to market as fast as they could. The noble lord then pointed out the injurious way in which the bill would operate towards the clergy, if the price of corn should materially fall, and, if it should not fall, he could not understand what the utility could be of passing the bill at all.

The Marquis of LANDSDOWNE said:—

Years ago, he had given it as his opinion that a fixed duty was the preferable mode of settling the question. He thought so because he was unwilling greatly to impair the revenue; and also as it appeared to him that the proposition was calculated to conciliate the support of the landed interest. These were his opinions on the subject; and if he had had the settlement of this question in his own hands at present, he would have proposed a measure in accordance with those opinions [“oh, oh!” from the opposition benches]. But the question was this—whether, if he voted for an amendment calculated to promote his own views on the subject, he would not, in fact, while nominally voting for such an amendment, be really voting against the settlement of the question. He could not disguise from himself—looking at the sentiments expressed by Sir Robert Peel, and to the declarations contained in the letter of Lord John Russell, to which he was not then a party, and to the general opinions expressed in favour of an alteration of the law both in-door and out-of-door—that if an amendment were carried which had the effect of throwing out this bill, they would not obtain a fixed duty, but a measure of a totally different description would be adopted. Under these circumstances, he felt, upon the whole, that in order to obtain a settlement of this question, he was bound to accept the bill as tendered by her Majesty's Government, and which had received the sanction of a majority of the other House of Parliament.

He thought the bill would be productive of great and lasting benefits to the country, by promoting a gradual and certain extension of commerce, based upon a solid foundation. He hoped and believed that, in this respect, the measure would contribute to the wealth and prosperity of this empire, and that, after the lapse of a few years, it would be difficult to discover what particular class had derived the greatest benefit from its operation.

[A singular scene took place when the noble marquis resumed his seat. Lord Eglintoun, Lord Beaumont, and the Earl of Essex, presented themselves to be heard. Each noble lord had a large number of supporters, and all three attempted to speak at the same moment. The Duke of Richmond moved that Lord Eglintoun be heard, while another noble lord moved that the Earl of Essex be heard. Great confusion ensued, arising from the practice of the House, in which the Chancellor has not the power possessed by the Speaker in the House of Commons, of calling on the member who has been most fortunate in first catching his attention. A division was likely to have taken place, when the Earl of Eglintoun and Lord Beaumont gave way.]

The Earl of Essex then proceeded to address the House in support of the Bill, advocating strenuously the principles of free trade, though he regretted that, in the preparation of the measure, greater consideration had not been shown towards the burdens on the land.

The Earl of EGLINTOUN said he had been always a Conservative, and hoped to continue one, and would have been happy to have still adhered to the Government; but when he saw Sir Robert Peel overthrowing every principle which he had all his former life been advocating, he felt it necessary to act entirely upon his own individual judgment, and in the exercise of that judgment he would decidedly oppose the bill.

Lord BEAUMONT strongly opposed the second reading of the bill.

The Earl of DALHOUSIE contended that the principle of “protection” was unsound in itself, and was calculated to enhance prices to the consumer, without any ultimate advantage to the producer. In holding this opinion he was guilty of no inconsistency, for it was in accordance with all his former opinions. With respect to our becoming independent of foreign countries, he contended that the constant increase in the quantity of foreign corn taken into our home consumption was a sufficient proof that even under the existing law we were not independent of foreign supply. The fact was, however, that we were dependent upon foreigners for not only our food, but for the means even of clothing and existence, as was evident from a mere glance at our cotton manufactures. What would become of our manufacturing population if we were to exclude the cotton of America? The same might be said of wool and other articles; and it was absurd, therefore, to raise the question in respect to food exclusively, when it was, in fact, equally applicable to the means of purchasing it. The noble Earl also adverted to the averages, which, he would state to their lordships, gave a fictitious idea of price owing to the difference of quality, as was evident from a comparison between the price given by them and that at which you could really buy the best wheat in the market. In fact, the contract price at the Victualling-office, this year, was, for the best red wheat £3 11s., although the price given by the averages was only £2 10s. He concluded a lengthened speech by a defence of the course pursued by the Government, every member of which regretted that the attempt of Lord John Russell to form an administration to carry the measure had proved a failure. They would, how-

ever, have been traitors to their Sovereign and to their own convictions, if they hesitated, after that failure, to act precisely as they had done; and although they might be doomed to bow before the indignation of their party, they could at least stand erect before a higher tribunal.

The Duke of BEAUFORT next addressed the House in opposition to the bill, but owing to the noise in the body of the House he was but indistinctly heard in the gallery.

The Duke of WELLINGTON then addressed the House. After explaining his part in the events which led to the proposition of the free-trade measure by the Cabinet, and his obligation of gratitude to his Sovereign and country to take the course he did, he proceeded:—

Your lordships may think it probably true, and it is true, that, with reference to the subject, I ought to feel no relations of party, and you may think that party ought not to rely upon me. Be it so, if you think proper [cheers]. I have stated to you the motives from which I acted. I am satisfied with them myself, and I should be exceedingly concerned if any dissatisfaction was caused in the minds of any of your lordships by my conduct. I am aware that I never had any claims upon the confidence which your lordships so long reposed in me, and which I have now enjoyed for a considerable number of years. Circumstances contributed to give it to me. In some cases I had the confidence of your Crown, and, in other cases, I obtained your confidence in consequence of the zeal with which I endeavoured to serve your lordships—to promote your public views—and to facilitate the transaction of the business of this House. I shall never lament any breaking up of the habits of confidence in public life with which your lordships have honoured me; but I will not allow this occasion to pass, even if this night should possibly be the last upon which I should give you my advice, without giving my counsels as to the vote which I think your lordships ought to give on this occasion.

He pointed out the consequences of rejecting the measure:—

If we reject this bill, my lords, we know that we reject the bill which has been passed and agreed to by the two other branches of the constitution, and that the House of Lords will stand alone in rejecting it. This is the consideration in which I beg your lordships to look at the question. This is a position, my lords, in which you ought not, in which you cannot, stand; it is a position in which you are powerless, and can do nothing. You have vast influence on public opinion, but, separated from the Crown and from the House of Commons, you can do nothing until the connexion with them is revived. I conclude that a new Government will be formed; be it so or not, do you conclude, my lords, that there will not be the same measure brought before you by the next Administration? Do you mean then to reject this bill a second time? Do you mean that the country shall go on in the discussion of this measure for many months longer? But, my lords, I am told that the reply is, that the Parliament should be dissolved [loud cheers], and that the country should have an opportunity, if they think fit, of returning other representatives, and of seeing whether or not another House of Commons will agree to this measure. Now really, my lords, if you have so much confidence as you appear to have in the results of those elections, and in the decision of public opinion on this question, I think you may safely rely on the elections which must occur in little more than twelve months, in the common course of law, and that you might trust to the Parliament which shall then be elected to take into consideration this law, without interfering with the prerogative of the Crown [hear, hear], by obliging it to dissolve Parliament by rejecting this bill. You have now before you, my lords, the results of rejecting this bill; you will have the option of having another bill brought before you to pass or to reject. If you reject this bill, you can appeal to a new Parliament if you think fit; but, at all events, this measure will not become a law until the year 1849 [hear, hear].

Their lordships then divided. For the second reading of the Corn Bill:—

Contents (present)	138
Proxies	73
	—211
Non-contents	126
Proxies	38
	—164
Majority	47

The Duke of WELLINGTON moved that the Corn Bill be committed on Thursday the 11th of June. Agreed to.

THE BUDGET.

In the House of Commons, on Friday evening, on the House going into a committee of ways and means,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his annual financial statement. He was anxious to do so before the House separated for the holidays, in order that, during the approaching leisure, there might be time for considering the one general view he now presented. It would show how successful had been the financial policy of the Government, and dispel any apprehensions of difficulty which might remain as to the effects of reduction of duties. The first point was that of income and expenditure. Last year a revenue of £49,762,000 had been anticipated; the actual amount which had been received was £51,250,000, independently of the China money. A great diminution had been accomplished during last year, yet the customs, the excise, the stamps, and the post-office, all exhibited vitality; and, notwithstanding the loss to the revenue from the reductions, there was a surplus of income over expenditure of no less than £2,350,000. This afforded a striking proof of the elasticity of the resources of the country; for the only important branch of income which had declined was the property and income tax, the slight falling off in which had been caused by repayments. Notwithstanding the additional great reduction of duties proposed during the present year, the experience of the past enabled him with confidence to anticipate the future. He might take the anticipated loss in the customs at two-fifths of the duties to be repealed, and set down the amount to be received from that source at £19,300,000. But as, notwithstanding the uncertainty caused by the delay of the Government measures, there was every indication of continued prosperity, and the reports from the revenue officers of all the outports were very satisfactory, he would advance his estimate, and set down his expected revenue from the customs, during the next year, at £19,500,000. It was to be borne in recollection that, though the measures

of the Government were not yet passed into law, the reduction of duties was in actual operation, under the treasury order. In the excise a very large reduction had also taken place during last year, yet the revenue from it fell short only by £100,000 from what it was when the auction, glass, and other duties were in full operation. He would take the excise at £13,400,000; the stamps at £7,400,000; the property-tax at £5,100,000; the post-office at £850,000, which, with other items and £700,000 of China money, will render the anticipated income the ensuing year £51,650,000. The expenditure, if taken at the same amount as last year, would be £49,400,000, which would leave a surplus upon the year of £2,200,000—a sum nearly as large as the surplus of last year, notwithstanding the great reductions which have been made. But the expenditure for next year is augmented. Our public establishments were increased, which would nearly absorb the surplus. The army and navy are augmented, the specific additional charges for which he stated, which, with other extra expenses, will reduce the £2,200,000 to £776,000, the main portion of which will be derived from the £700,000 of China money. The system which had brought about our present financial prosperity was begun in 1842, soon after the present Government entered on office. Previously there had been a great deficiency, which had been attempted to be supplied by increased taxation. This having failed, resort was had to a revision of our prohibitory and protective duties, and the result was striking. In 1842, the balances in the Exchequer were only three millions. In 1846 they amounted to eight millions, the specific increase during these four years being £4,798,000. Then, during these four years, there had been a considerable diminution of the capital stock of the funded and unfunded debt. The total amount, in 1842, was £793,209,000. In 1846, it was only £786,115,000, being a reduction in the capital of the debt of seven millions sterling. The deficiency bills have, also, been reduced by £4,133,009. In addition to these two sums, the interest and charge for the debt had been abated by the annual sum of £800,000, the amount, in 1842, being £29,597,000, and, in 1846, £28,129,000; while another prospective reduction has been effected of £625,000, which is to come into operation in 1854, making the total annual reduction thus amounting to £1,500,000. It might be alleged that the China money had mainly assisted them to accomplish these results. The amount thus received had been £3,323,000; from which had to be deducted the expense of the war, £2,050,000, and the opium compensation, £1,270,000; leaving only a sum of £3,000 actually available from this source in aid of the Exchequer. But the benefit derived from reduction of taxation was not to be measured by the mere amount of the duties reduced. Since 1842, the present Government had imposed the property and income tax, which, with some small excise duties, makes an annual amount of taxation imposed of £5,600,000. But during the last four years, customs and excise duties have been remitted to the extent of £8,206,000, which leaves a balance of taxation reduced to £2,582,000. It might be said that good harvests had brought about the present favourable condition of the people. He did not undervalue the beneficial influence of good harvests. But to the commercial and financial policy pursued by the Government, he contended, ought to be mainly attributed the present aspect of the country. Reduction of duties increased consumption, improved the revenue, diffused comfort, and extended trade, the effects of which were displayed in increased deposits in the savings banks, the diminution of crime, the diffusion of education and of religious instruction. Instead of building fifty churches during a century, we build fifty in a year. These results were obtained without any derangement of any great national interest, but by proceeding gradually. He hoped we would go on as we had begun, and cautiously and gradually diminish the burdens of the people.

Mr. F. T. Baring admitted that the free-trade policy of the Government was commendable, but thought that Mr. Goulburn was too fond of contrasting the financial administration of his Government with that of the Whigs. All the prosperity of the country could not be attributed to the Tariff.

Mr. Hume deemed the statement fair and intelligible, and recommended the Government to remove, as far as in their power, the assessed taxes.

Lord George Bentinck thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made a great omission in not stating what amount he anticipated for the reduced corn-duties. In his glowing speech too little credit had been given for the bounties of the harvests.

Mr. Charles Wood expressed his approval of the commercial policy of the Government.

Mr. Hudson saw no ground for such a congratulatory speech as Mr. Goulburn's. He thought that a speculative Ministry, as the present had been called, would have dashed at tea, and reduced the duty on that article. The whole statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was a laudation of the Government measures; so that the right honourable gentleman might be called, as a former holder of his office was, "Prosperity Goulburn."

The usual resolution was agreed to, and the report ordered to be brought up next Friday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BRIDPORT ELECTION.—On Thursday the debate on the motion for inquiry into the vote of William Rockett was resumed. Mr. HENLEY moved as an amendment, the extension of the inquiry into whether any means had been resorted to by the parties to the petition for withholding from the consideration of the Committee matters relating to bribery and treating. [This addition was a virtual restoration of that part of the motion which was rejected last week by the casting vote of the Speaker.] Mr. BANKES seconded the motion; insisting that the House was bound to inquire into this case, in order to vindicate its conduct in the eyes of the public. A discussion ensued, and on a division, the amendment was negatived by eighty to thirty-two. The original motion was then agreed to.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.—On Friday night, before the House of Commons adjourned for their week's holiday, Sir ROBERT PEEL mentioned the order in which he in-

tended to take up the public business after the Whitsuntide recess. On Friday, the 5th of June, he will proceed with the Poor-law Removal Bill; on Monday, the 8th, he will move the second reading of the Irish Assassination Bill; on the Friday after he will bring forward the sugar duties, should the debate on the Irish bill not interfere. On Friday, the 5th, he should also move that, after Thursday, the 11th of June, orders of the day have precedence of notices of motion on Thursdays, but that the change should not take effect till Thursday, the 18th of June. Mr. JOHN O'CONNELL renewed the threat, on the part of the Irish members, to obstruct the Irish Assassination Bill by all available means.

Neither house met on Wednesday, the "Derby day" at Epsom races.

THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge remained at the House of Lords until three o'clock on Friday morning. A great many ladies availed themselves of the limited accommodation to hear the noble speakers in the debate, and among those who remained until the division we observed the Duchess of Buccleuch, the Countess of Wilton, the Countess of Essex, Viscountess Canning, Viscountess Sydney, and Lady Adelaide Paget; his Excellency Prince Castelcicala, Count Potocki, and several of the foreign diplomats were present; and Viscount Morpeth, the Honourable G. Rice Trevor, Mr. G. Bankes, and other members of the House of Commons. The Duke of Rutland, the Earl of Beverley, the Marquis of Exeter, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Chesterfield, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Powis, the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Carnarvon, Earl Granville, the Earl of Morley, the Earl of Mornington, Lord Stanley, the Earl of Aberdeen, &c., left the house soon after the division. The Lord Chancellor did not leave until five o'clock. The Duke of Wellington was the last to retire from the house. The noble and gallant Duke had given instructions that his saddle-horse should be at the House of Lords by four o'clock, and his carriage, which had been waiting all night, then left. On the Duke making his appearance and about to mount his horse, a crowd began to cheer him, and a person of respectable exterior, in an energetic manner exclaimed "God bless you." The noble and gallant Duke as promptly caused silence, by requesting the mob to discontinue their plaudits, by saying in a good-tempered but commanding tone, "For Heaven's sake, people, let me get on my horse;" the animal having shown signs of resistance at the noise. The noble Duke having at length mounted, he proceeded at a sharp pace towards St. James's park.—*Chronicle.*

"HAMLET WITHOUT HAMLET."—The standing joke, that *Hamlet* was played in a country theatre in the absence of its hero, was paralleled in a neighbouring sea-side parish, on Sunday evening week. The ancient church was thrown open—the bells were rung—the summons was obeyed—the pews were filled—but the pulpit was empty! The congregation "sat, and sat, and better sat;" still, no parson appeared. The parish-clerk, it was hoped, would at least give out a psalm, and the organist play a tune, that the people might not merely have "their labour for their pains." But no! the clerk would not give them a single stave from his tub. So the congregation went as they came. And this occurred in the midst of a community enjoying the services of more than half-a-dozen clergymen!—*Gateshead Observer.*

THE CHOLERA.—We have already stated, that the cholera had made its appearance in some of the provinces of Persia, carrying death in the principal towns. It has spread from Bokhara to Herat and Meshid, and has now taken the direction from the Caspian Sea to Teheran and Ispahan. Late accounts from Odessa state, that it had crossed the Russian territory and appeared suddenly at Tiflis, taking a northerly direction between the Caspian and the Black Seas. On the other side the cholera broke out unexpectedly at Orenbourg, in the mines of the Ural mountains; it crossed the Volga, and set its foot in Europe, at Cassan, only 2,000 kilometres from St. Petersburg. If the accounts we have received are exact, it has taken a most irregular direction. It has advanced from west to north, and does not seem to have followed the banks of the river, as in 1828 and 1832. The cholera which devastated France in 1831 and 1832, had been raging in Persia for seven years, 1823 to 1830. It first appeared in 1823 at Orenbourg, and shed death around that town for five years. It re-appeared at Orenbourg in 1829, and one-tenth of the population fell victims. It broke out at St. Petersburg in July 1831, and in France in October of the same year.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH.—The result of the division on the second reading of the Corn-bill, a majority of 47 in its favour, was expressed by special train from London to Derby, and from thence communicated to Normanton by the electric telegraph. The numbers of the division were not announced in the Lords till a quarter to five o'clock, and by a quarter past ten o'clock the same morning, the intelligence was in Leeds.—*Leeds Times.*

THE PEACE MOVEMENT IN BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday night a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of discussing the general subject of war, and with the view to adopt a petition to Parliament, urging the abandonment of the system of balloting for the militia, and the necessity of inserting an arbitration clause in all future foreign treaties. Mr. Thomas Swan presided, supported by several other ministers of various denominations; and amongst the laity there were Joseph Sturge, Esq., John Palmer, Esq., Mr. Councillor Field, and many other gentlemen, warm friends of the peace movement. Between two and three thousand persons were present. The petition was adopted, and, after some other gentlemen had addressed the meeting, it broke up at half-past ten, the proceedings throughout having been of a most interesting character.

It is probable that King Louis Philippe, with some members of his illustrious family, will visit England in the course of next autumn; but we believe that at present nothing further can be said, with any certainty, on the subject.—*Observer.*

PROTESTANT DISSENTERS' AND GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

(From a Correspondent.)

The seventh annual meeting of the proprietors of the Dissenters' and General Life and Fire Assurance Company was held at the offices of the Company on the 16th instant, John Wilks, Esq., in the chair; when a favourable report of the state of its affairs was presented, from which we make a few selections:—

In presenting their seventh report to the proprietors, the Directors are gratified to state that the business of the Company has continued, during the past year, steadily to increase. The returns of each quarter have exhibited an advance on those of the preceding year, and the general result of the annual investigation has been to strengthen their confidence in the stability of the Company, and to assure them of a large measure of success being ultimately realised.

The rate of progress in the fire department of the Company's business, will be best ascertained from the Government returns of duty. The amount has been steadily progressive from the first; and the sum paid in 1845 exceeded by £817 16s. 9d., or about 9 per cent., that of 1844.

There are no Government returns by which to test the progress of the life business, but gratifying evidence of prosperity is supplied in the fact, that the number of new policies issued during the year, and the sum assured by them, are greater than during the year 1844.

Of the fire policies issued, 901, covering £829,555, are on colleges, chapels, and school-rooms belonging to various Dissenting and Methodist denominations, whilst 629, covering £188,830, are on the residences and furniture of ministers. The directors refer to these facts with pleasure as indicating the interest taken in the Company by those for whose benefit it was formed, and as constituting an earnest of the extensive support for which they are authorised to look. In alluding to this class of Insurances they also take occasion to repeat the suggestion of last year—the propriety of which has been confirmed by what had subsequently transpired; "that the attention of their friends is especially due to the importance of increased caution in the modes adopted for warming their chapels and school-rooms; claims are frequently arising under the Company's policies for injury done to such buildings by overheating the stoves employed, or by other injudicious arrangement consequent on the diversified plans adopted for ventilation and warmth. Too great caution cannot be exercised in these matters, and the Directors respectfully press the subject on the notice of their friends."

The gross amount of fire premiums received during the year 1845, was £10,445 3s. 3d., and of life premiums £17,543 10s., whilst the losses incurred were, in the fire department, £7,002 6s. 8d., and in the life, £3,753; the former being £864 5s. 3d., and the latter £347 less than in the year 1844. The Directors have reason to think, that an impression has prevailed amongst the proprietors unfavourable to their fire business, as though it had been injurious to the Company by an excess of loss over premiums. So far, however, is this from having been the case, that the annual average of fire losses during the eight years of the Company's operations, has been only £3,608, whilst the average annual premiums during the same period has been £6,340 10s. 8d., leaving a yearly excess of £2,732 10s. 8d. towards the general expenses and profits of the business.

With regard to the assurance of ministers' lives we learn from the Report, that, up to the 31st of December last, the number assured was 278, and the sum covered by those policies, £111,687.

Many of these policies, we are informed, have been generously provided for—and that, too, in a most delicate manner—by congregations, or by the combined efforts of a few individuals. Your Directors are not at liberty to detail the history of these transactions. It may, however, be permitted them to remark, that they are alike honourable to both the parties concerned, bespeaking the value of the services rendered by the one, and the grateful estimation in which those services are held by the other. To have been the means of awakening increased attention to the social claims of the ministry, is no slight gratification to your Directors, neither can they express the satisfaction they have derived from the provision thus secured to the families of some deceased ministers. Houses, which would otherwise have been destitute as well as bereaved, have been partially, at least, supplied through the agency of your Company.

We are also glad that the subject of Deferred Annuities is noticed, and to learn that it has from the first constituted a special feature of the Company. Referring to this subject the Directors say:—

Their attention has also been directed to a provision for those whom age or infirmity has disqualified for the continued discharge of their ministry. With a view to this their Table of Premiums for deferred Annuities was formed, and it will afford them pleasure to co-operate with all parties who are solicitous to promote so desirable and beneficent an end. Feeling the great importance of this object, the Directors have, from the first, advisedly adopted, in this department of their business, a lower scale of premiums than in any other, and will be ready to conform their arrangements to any sound and practical scheme which may be proposed.

Every benevolent man must rejoice in the efforts recently made to extend the benefits of Life Assurance, through the medium of Provident Societies, to the humbler classes of society. The poor have been grossly imposed on in this matter, and are liable to be so, from their ignorance of the nature of life expectancies. It is, therefore, specially incumbent on the better informed classes to guard them against these evils; and we know no more suitable occupation to the benevolent than to see to the protection of their interests. We are glad to find that the Dissenters' Assurance Society is contemplating an extension of its operations in this direction:—

We are happy to announce that arrangements are being concluded, by which the Company will undertake the life assurance department of these societies, leaving untouched and under local management the other and more temporary objects which they contemplate. By this arrangement the poorer members of Dissenting and Methodist congregations will have an opportunity of securing similar advantages to those enjoyed by the more affluent. The rich and the poor will thus meet together, habits of economy and forethought will be formed, the small savings of the artisan will be applied in the most productive manner possible to the benefit of his survivors, and social order and domestic comfort will be proportionably advanced.

The assets of the Company at the close of the year, as shown by the auditors' report, amounted to £111,646 18s. 8d., being an increase on the former year of £14,208 19s. 2d.

The three Directors who, according to the constitu-

tion of the Company, went out of office by rotation, were cordially re-elected, and Samuel Morton Peto, Esq., was unanimously chosen to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Peter Ellis.

In the course of the meeting Mr. J. H. Hinton inquired whether the Board has reason to conclude that the name of the Company operated against its interests, and was informed by the chairman that the subject was now under the consideration of the Board, together with some other points in the conduct of its business, and that if it were ultimately resolved to change the title a new Act of Parliament would be required.

Votes of thanks to the Board and Chairman having been unanimously passed, the meeting, which was the most numerous hitherto held, broke up in perfect good-feeling and confidence.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, June 3rd.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

The Bombay mails of the 1st of May have arrived; they are remarkably barren of exciting intelligence.

The Governor-General and the Commander-in-Chief had reached Simla, where they intended to remain during the hot and rainy seasons. The troops had taken up their stations for the same period in the newly-acquired districts along the Beas, and also in Lahore. The Sikh soldiers were tranquil, but not satisfied. The Governments of Lahore and Jamoo were engaged in tracing out the frontiers between them. Gholab Singh is not popular with the Sikhs, who accuse him of having sacrificed their country to gratify his personal ambition. Dhost Mahommed, who was delighted on hearing of the invasion of the British dominions by the Sikhs, has since resumed a pacific policy, for the rapidity of the British conquests had not allowed him time for any offensive operations against Peshawur, although some preparations for that purpose appear to have been made at Jellalabad by his son and Wuzer, the notorious Akbar Khan. It is evident from the position of the different Rajahs and their adherents, as well at Lahore as in the neighbouring states, that the present cessation of hostilities is kept up rather as a temporary armistice, than a lasting peace. The division of the spoils of Runjeet Singh's kingdom is not satisfactory to them, and it is highly probable that before 1846 expires, there will be other conflicts.

The guns captured from the Sikhs during the late war, to the number of 256, have reached Delhi, and they are to be taken with all the pomp of a military procession from that city, even as far as Calcutta.

Scinde was tranquil. The Nizam's dominions are in a disturbed state, in consequence of the bad management of the finances of the Government.

Great complaints prevailed of the scarcity of water in many districts in which the cholera was raging. Hopes were, however, entertained of an early monsoon.

A St. Petersburg letter, in the *German Journal of Frankfurt*, mentions a report that Prince Albert will, on the occasion of the marriage of the Grand Duchess Olga, return the visit which the Emperor of Russia paid to Queen Victoria, her Majesty being unable to do so in person.

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.—There is a rumour in the city that the American Government has actually invited the mediation of England and France for the settlement of the dispute between the United States and Mexico. Although the alleged fact is affirmed with some confidence, great difficulty is felt in reconciling it with the very aggressive disposition which has lately been manifested by the American Government.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.—*La Presse* announces that orders had been sent by the Minister of Marine to Brest and the other military harbours, to despatch a number of ships of war to the Gulf of Mexico to reinforce the squadron stationed there, in consequence of the war between the United States and Mexico.

HEALTH OF THE QUEEN.—We are glad to find that her Majesty has so rapidly recovered her health, that no more bulletins will be issued by her medical attendants. The infant Princess is also well.

EIGHT BISHOPS voted against the second reading of the Corn bill, viz., Winchester, Bangor, Rochester, Llandaff, Gloucester, Exeter, Chichester, St. Asaph and Bath and Wells.

REPRESENTATION OF NEWCASTLE.—Mr. Colquhoun has announced to the electors of Newcastle-under-Lyme that he does not intend to come forward again as a candidate to represent them.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The meeting of this body, on Monday, was rendered more than usually interesting by the presence of Mr. O'Connell, and other repeal M.P.'s. Mr. Grattan, M.P., presided, and expressed a hope that as the weather was so hot there would be nothing said by any one calculated to excite their feelings [laughter]. Mr. O'Connell handed in various subscriptions, including that of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, from whom he read a long letter mentioning that the sum inclosed (£127) was the repeated annual contribution of 124 clergymen of his diocese. Mr. O'Connell then referred to the reported differences with regard to Mr. S. O'Brien:—

No doubt it had been said by their enemies that there was a split in the Repeal camp—that O'Connell was against O'Brien, and O'Brien against O'Connell; but the assertion was untrue, and he (Mr. O'Connell) would rather retire from the Association than that Smith O'Brien should leave it. He was, however, happy to say that there was no fear of such a calamity falling upon Ireland.

The learned gentleman concluded by reading a series of resolutions, to the effect that Mr. O'Brien should be entertained at a public banquet shortly, and that a public procession should escort him into Dublin on his way from Limerick, and moved their adoption, which was passed by acclamation. Another resolution was then passed requesting Mr. O'Brien to accept the amount of the fees paid by him to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the

House of Commons upon his liberation, out of the funds of the Association; after which Mr. O'Connell referred to the good measures, with regard to Ireland, which Government were about to introduce. It was a great encouragement to continued agitation. Rent for the week, £355.

IRELAND.—RELIEF OF THE PEOPLE.—The use of Indian meal has now become quite general throughout Ireland, and the people prefer it to the potato, the enormous price of which, for some months past, has placed it beyond the reach of the labouring classes. One good effect of this change in the food of the humbler classes is a reduction in the price of potatoes, both for seed and for immediate consumption.

THE CROPS IN IRELAND.—The accounts of the growing crops from all corners of the kingdom are extremely favourable—the intense heat of the last three weeks, varied by occasional showers of rain, giving to the whole face of the country a healthy and luxuriant appearance. Farmers are everywhere actively engaged in the fields, and there are, besides, extra sources of employment provided for the labouring classes. There has lately been a marked absence of serious crimes, and there is the prospect of an early and abundant harvest.

GOOD NEWS, IF TRUE.—The trustworthy meteorological correspondent of the *Times*, who signs "H. P.," predicts a continuance of the present splendid weather, "with occasional electric currents, with hail-storms and thunder. June bids fair to be a very fine month."

MONSTER TRAINS.—On Monday morning, as early as seven o'clock, the approach to the termini of the Brighton, Dover, and Croydon railway, was the scene of much confusion, owing to the immense number of persons waiting for the early excursion trains. The eight o'clock Brighton train consisted of forty-four carriages, and was propelled by three powerful engines. It extended nearly half a mile in length, and the carriages contained nearly 4,000 persons. The nine o'clock train took down an immense number also; as did the trains for Dover, Ramsgate, and Croydon. Numbers of persons also availed themselves of the cheap excursions on the South-Western, Northern and Eastern, and the Eastern Counties lines.—*Globe*.

THE REFUGE FOR FEMALE PRISONERS anxious to reform their lives, established in memory of Mrs. Fry, is receiving general support. Her Majesty has become its patroness, and subscribed fifty guineas, Prince Albert £25, and the King of Prussia has become a contributor.

ELECTORS.—By a return recently printed, it is stated that there are 553,432 persons on the register for Great Britain, the numbers being—England, 468,258; Wales, 37,092; and Scotland, 48,082. In the session of 1844, a return was issued from which it appears that, in 1839-40, the number was 907,903, and, in 1842-3, 941,782.

POISONINGS IN NORFOLK.—A further investigation into the circumstances attending this revolting affair was, at the instance of the Secretary of State, commenced on Monday morning, by Mr. Pilgrim, the county coroner, at the village of East Ruston, two miles distant, on view of the bodies of Martha, William, and Maria Green, grandchildren of the deceased, Jonathan Balls, who have, without a doubt, as the evidence adduced almost satisfactorily proves, died from the effects of poison. The inquiry was likely to last several days.

AFFECTING COINCIDENCE.—We cannot but deplore that the Lords should, of all the days in the year, have fallen upon the 29th of May (anniversary of the Restoration), to commit suicide. On the anniversary of the day which saw the restoration of the throne, the peerage, and the church, the hereditary legislature of the realm passed a vote which, in its consequences, may bring greater evils than were remedied in 1660 by the upraising of royalty over the commonwealth.—*Church and State Gazette*.

MONUMENT TO JOHN KNOX.—The members of the Free Church have recently been actively engaged in raising subscriptions for the erection of a monument to John Knox, on the well-known spot at the Nether Bow, where this illustrious Reformer lived and died. The monumental structure is to consist of a tower, with two churches and two schools in connexion therewith. The foundation stone was laid on Monday week.

DEADFUL SHIPWRECK.—By the Cambria steamer, which arrived in the Mersey on Thursday afternoon, intelligence of a distressing nature has come to hand, announcing the appalling shipwreck of the *Kalscrona*, a Swedish Indianman, and the loss of no fewer than 115 lives, in a dreadful storm off the coast of Matanzas.

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—It appears from the quarterly return of the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages, just issued, that "43,708 deaths were registered in the last winter quarter (ending March 31st). This number is less by 6,166 than the number (49,874) registered in the winter quarter of 1845. If the increase of the population (about 1.74 per cent. annually) be taken into account, the mortality will also be found to have been less in the last winter than in any of the eight previous winters. This marked diminution of the mortality occurred in more than two-thirds of the districts from which returns are procured, but is most obvious in the metropolis, and in the western and north-western divisions of the registration districts. In the districts of the northern division alone of England the mortality was considerably higher than in the winters of 1844 and 1845; and this is referred by the registrars to epidemics of scarletina in Sunderland, Tynemouth, and Carlisle. Temperature, the command of food by the working classes, epidemics, and the general condition of the streets and dwellings, have all a certain effect on the rates of mortality; but there can be little doubt that the low mortality in the last quarter is to be ascribed to the extraordinary mildness of the winter of 1846. The mean temperature at the Greenwich Observatory was nearly 5 degrees above the average of 25 years, and 8 degrees above the average temperature of the winter of 1845. The mean temperature of the week ending February 14th was 36 degrees; of the week ending March 21st, 38 degrees; of all the other eleven weeks in the quarter the mean temperature was 40

degrees and upwards. The south-west winds prevailed; the fall of rain at Greenwich was nearly 6 inches; 10.26 inches of rain fell at Helston, 13.35 inches at Truro, and only 1.92 inches at Newcastle-on-Tyne."

A PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, on the plan of the successful institution at Sheffield, under Mr. Bailey's efficient management, and which now instructs 1,000 pupils, has been commenced at Nottingham. It will cost about £2,000. We have great pleasure, says the *Notts Review*, in stating, that Charles Paget, Esq., of Rudington Grange, has accepted the office of president, and William Cripps, Esq., of Nottingham Park, that of vice-president; Messrs. Wright are the bankers, and Mr. George Gill the treasurer. We have pleasure also in announcing, that the principal promoter of this invaluable institution has, with a liberality which cannot be too highly estimated, purchased and given half an acre of land adjoining the Nottingham Park, and on the south side of the Catholic church; and the necessary preparations for building "The People's College" were last week commenced.

TEMPERANCE IN NORTHERN EUROPE.—The temperance cause is making rapid progress in the northern kingdoms of Europe, where its argument was greatly needed. There are now in Sweden 323 societies, placed under a central direction composed of the Comte de Hartmannsdorf, the Baron de Berzelius, and Professor Retzius. The members are 88,687 in number; being a twenty-eighth of the whole population. Of the Stockholm Society the King and the Prince Royal are members; and it has obtained the King's authority to convoke, in the capital, for the 15th of June next, a congress of all the temperance associations throughout Sweden—to which those of foreign countries are to be invited to send deputations. It is stated that upwards of five hundred distilleries have been shut up, in Sweden, in the course of the last two years. In Norway, the first society of the kind was established so lately as the end of 1844; and there are already ninety-two, counting 11,000 members.—*Athenaeum*.

CHILDREN.—To see children as they ought to be you must see them in numerous coveys. The real child is only to be seen in a house where you can't set down a foot heedlessly without trampling on one. There they are so much in the way that people are not allowed to forget them, and they are so many that none of them can be spoiled by petting. Besides, children make by far the best keepers and companions for each other. A baby, in its bacinnet, trying to rest on its feet whilst propping its little hands on the rim, or reaching over to catch something, is enough to outwear the vigilance of the most pattern nursemaid; but set a little creature of two years old, the quiet and gentle one of the family, to watch the baby, and, proud of the commission, it never tires. The baby, too, is more amenable to its tiny coercion when seeking to break bounds. Such a group is the only beautiful emblem of the power that love imparts to human weakness. When the blind is imagined directing the lame, while the lame carries the blind, the picture is painful and humiliating; but there is no such alloy in the picture of an elf, only half emerged from babyhood, keeping baby from hurting itself, while baby supplies the place of a plaything. Or, perhaps, it is a gallant unbreeched boy who takes the guardianship of a sister some twelve moons his senior. How soon the "lord of the creation" shows himself in the male. There is a mischievous, laughing self-confidence in an urchin of two years that girls can never attain. If any other class of intelligent existence have it in their power to contemplate human beings, the most inexperienced among them must at once have a presentiment that, in the baby-boy they behold a creature whose will is to be law for himself and others. A nurserymaid, when children who are verging towards the transition epoch at which the child passes into the boy or girl prove unusually stubborn, sometimes threatens to leave them. Let the experiment be tried, and it is ten to one that the culprit, if a girl, looks on while the bonnet and shawl are being pinned, half-incredulous, half-anxious, that her young sister is dissolved in tears, and that, while baby keeps crowing, utterly unconscious of what is passing, little master, with a pout on his lip and a frown on his brow, doggedly sets his back against the door to prevent egress, and says nothing. In girl-children the intellect develops itself more rapidly than in boy-children, but the character is much earlier pronounced in the male. This may be the reason why we always find, in the nursery pairings off, a brother and sister keeping themselves somewhat apart from the rest. Where there are two, one must go before. Either the elder girl has not the talent of leading, or the younger feels instinctively that she has no authority over her by divine right. The boy takes the lead unconsciously, and yet, as in after life, the girl has, perhaps, more influence over him than he over her.—*Tait's Magazine*.

SITES FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP IN SCOTLAND.—The bill of Mr. Fox Maule, for obtaining sites for places of worship for Christian congregations in Scotland, has just been printed. It provides that where not less than one hundred persons, twenty years of age and upwards, shall apply for a place of worship to the sheriff, or steward, of the county or stewartry, he shall hear the grounds on which they make their application, and also the reasons of refusal, if any, on the part of the landlord. The sheriff, or steward, shall then pronounce an order, or deliverance, either granting or refusing the application, as may seem fit. The sheriff is also to select the sites, and to settle the price that is to be paid for them. The bill further provides that it shall be optional with the landlords to receive the value of the ground required for sites, either in a sum payable at once, or in the shape of an annual rent. The bill also provides that the land thus obtained for sites shall not be diverted to other purposes.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	850	630	1050			
Scotch			600			
Irish						
Foreign						

No alteration in prices.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.

*• All communications to the Editor should be addressed to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"One who loves consistency." His letter would have been extremely pertinent six months ago.

"An observer of the Tories" asks: "Is it true that the Church, as by law established, has taken such rapid strides in the town of Worthing, Sussex, that only one Nonconformist is to be found in its population of five thousand people?" We are unable to answer the question. Perhaps some of our readers may enlighten us.

"J. L." We wait to see the promised theory before we can give further insertions on so abstruse a subject.

"Commentator." We are extremely sorry that letters, we are compelled from a regard to justice to insert, will prevent his letter from appearing this week.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1846.

SUMMARY.

EXPECTATION is now set at rest. Doubt has vanished. The second reading of the Corn Importation Bill has been carried in the House of Lords by a majority of forty-seven. This may be regarded as decisive of the strife. The number of Peers present who gave their votes for the measure exceeded that of those who opposed it by just a dozen. We have consequently a guarantee, narrow but sure, that the bill will pass unharmed through the committee, where proxies will not count. But if by untoward accident any unfortunate alteration should be made, report says that it will be rectified on the third reading, where proxies may again be received. There is little chance, however, that the contest for the future will be anything more than nominal. The measure is carried, and, by the close of the present month will be embodied in the statute book of the realm.

The debate on Thursday night, which terminated in this triumphant division, was well-sustained. Novelty of argument could hardly be expected, and will not be found. But the ability displayed by several of the speakers—the condensed form in which they presented their reasonings—the amount of information compressed into their remarks—and the calm sobriety of tone which, for the most part, pervaded their oratory—did great credit to the House of Lords. Earl Grey commenced the discussion of the evening with a speech of remarkable power—lucid in its arrangement, clear and forcible in its expression, and eloquent in its peroration. Lord Ashburton followed, turning his back upon his former self, and describing the measure as fraught with consequences, the fear of which can only be imputed to the dotage of senility. The Marquis of Lansdowne, although agreeing to support the bill, was bitterly aristocratic; and gave expression to his regret at the publication of Lord John's famous letter of November last, in which, he said, he had no hand. The Earl of Essex and the Earl of Eglington spoke briefly; the one in favour of, the other in violent opposition to, the bill. The Earl of Dalhousie delivered himself of a capital business speech, perhaps the best of the kind which the corn-law debates have produced. The Duke of Wellington wound up briefly, but pithily. He advised their lordships to consider well the consequences to which they would expose themselves by rejecting the measure. It had been recommended from the throne—it had been confirmed by a large majority of the House of Commons. For the Lords to place themselves in opposition to the other two branches of the Legislature would be to take up a position which they could not maintain. He advised them, therefore, to act with that discretion which is the better part of valour. The duke uttered not one word upon the merits of the question, nor, except by implication, did he refer to the all-but-unanimous public opinion existing out of doors. "You have the Throne and the Commons against you"—such was the substance of his warning. "Acquiesce in their decision, and you will save your order—oppose it, and you will abdicate your functions." The House took his advice; and, as the country has learnt with satisfaction, put the bill beyond reach of future danger.

The House of Commons listened, on Friday night, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget, whose task was the unenviable one of presenting the financial statement, all the important items of which had been anticipated by previous legislation. It would be superfluous for us to give a summary of the details. The honourable gentleman reviewed the commercial and financial policy of the Government, and took great credit for its complete success. One thing is clear—that the principles of taxation are far better understood now by all classes of statesmen than they were but a few years back. The anticipated income for the ensuing year is £51,650,000. The expenditure, if taken at the same amount as last year, would be £49,400,000, leaving a surplus of £2,200,000, notwithstanding the great reductions which had been made. But when did ever Government leave an anticipated surplus untouched? Public establishments are to be increased; the army and navy are to be augmented; and this, with other

extra expenses, will reduce the surplus to £776,000; £700,000 of which are to be drawn from China. Mr. F. Baring followed the Chancellor of the Exchequer, picked some holes in the statement, and did what in him lay to damage the plumes which Mr. Goulburn had somewhat ostentatiously displayed. Lord George Bentinck was extremely dissatisfied; and contended that the only way to reduce taxation successfully, would be to continue the duties on corn and timber. A vote of supply was then taken, and the House adjourned to the Whitsun holidays till Friday next.

Having despatched Parliamentary business, we turn to notice the annual meeting of the British Anti-state-church Association, held at the London Tavern, on Thursday evening last. An ample report of it will be found in our columns. No mere report, however, can do justice to the spirit that pervaded the assembly. The spacious room was densely crowded—principally by gentlemen. Unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed to the close. The attention given to the speakers was that of men deeply interested in the subject discussed. The Association has evidently gained a firm hold upon a considerable proportion of the active and intelligent mind of the metropolis. Without the aid of exciting circumstances, and without the stimulus of approaching success—by the mere truth of its own principles, and by the dignity of its past course, it can now command an audience such as few of our institutions could bring together. It is rising slowly, but majestically, above the difficulties and the prejudices which beset its early days—securing homage where until lately it provoked nothing but contempt; and it bids fair, on the final settlement of the corn-law question, to become the focus of public opinion, and to obtain a fully adequate share of public support. Like the League, it is destined to become a great fact; and, steadily pursuing the end it has in view, it will probably be hastened onward to its goal by conjunctures which no human sagacity can now anticipate. A donation was handed to the Treasurer from one gentleman on the platform of £50, and of £5 from another. We believe the Executive Committee are greatly cheered by the present aspect of their enterprise.

Prince Louis Napoleon, after six years' captivity in the castle of Ham, where he has been immured until his name had almost been forgotten, has succeeded in effecting his escape to this country, probably with the secret connivance of the French government. Louis Philippe would have acted a much more graceful and popular part in giving the young Prince a formal discharge, and by this means disarming any future attempts at insurrection. But generosity is rarely found in conjunction with craft. Since the accession of the present King, France has been governed chiefly by intrigue, her liberties have been stealthily filched away, and no scruples of conscience, honour, or humanity have deterred the wily citizen King from carrying out his ambitious designs. And so, now that the further confinement of Prince Louis is embarrassing, he is released by stratagem. It is to be hoped that his long captivity has taught him wisdom. If the pledge he has given to the French ambassador in London, be seriously meant, it has had that effect. Such enterprises as those upon which he embarked are begotten of folly by overweening conceit, and suffering has a very powerful corrective influence upon both.

A revolution has occurred in Portugal, of which we quote the following descriptive paragraph from the *Daily News* :—

"That country has been for some time governed by a faction, a very small faction, analogous to that which has also for some time reigned at Madrid, a few officials, headed by a determined man, Cabral, relying for strength on the support of the army. In vain were the best organised and most formidable insurrections attempted against this man's power, headed even by a general so renowned as Bomfim. Cabral contrived to triumph over all with the same success as Narvaez; and his dictatorship but a month back seemed to defy the hostility of rivals or the discontent of the people.

"Yet a very small incident, a mere pebble, has sufficed to upset the car of the dictator. One effect of his despotism was to throw the finances of Portugal into a most dilapidated state. He was obliged to invent new taxes, and these were of a kind which he thought incapable of exciting serious disturbance. One was a system of fees on burials. Some old women in a northern province thought fit to resist this; and their clamour coinciding with the disturbances in the neighbouring Spanish province of Galicia, the rustics gradually joined in, and the regions north of Oporto became all of a flame. The soldiery, attached to the Minister Cabral, who took care to pay them well, proceeded to repress the disturbance with brutality; when the people rose en masse—the women more exasperated than the men against the soldiery—and the result has been that the military commander in the north was forced to capitulate, and forward to Lisbon a popular order for the displacement of the obnoxious Minister. This order, issued at once from a military chief and the insurgent population, was obeyed. The brothers Cabral resigned. And, after some vain efforts of the Count of Villareal to form a Ministry, the Liberal leader, Sa da Bandeira, has been called to office with Saldanha, the more moderate Palmella, and others. In short, it is a hastily-formed Cabinet of notables, formed to quiet the people, and bring the country through the crisis. How the government may be finally settled remains to be seen."

Our fears expressed last week of an outbreak between the United States and Mexico have unhappily been confirmed. A small portion of the opposing forces on the frontier have been in collision, and some of the Americans killed and taken prisoners, whilst the remainder are in a most critical position, being cut off from supplies and surrounded by a Mexican force far superior in number. The news has created an extraordinary sensation in the States, and the war party has taken advantage of the popular passion to regain

their ascendancy. The President has virtually declared war against Mexico, in spite of the protests of the leading supporters of a pacific policy in Congress. Congress has voted, by large majorities, immense supplies to carry on the contest; and volunteers from all the southern states were flocking towards the Rio Grande. For further details of these important proceedings, we refer to the interesting letter of our New York correspondent, reserving for the present further comment on the subject.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

THERE has sprung up of late years a school of politicians who, comparatively careless as to the general principles of government, give themselves heart and soul to what they call *practical* questions. Sanitary regulations, popular amusements, and, above all, national education, engross their attention—and they show themselves specially solicitous that the legislature should bring its wisdom and authority to bear, with a view to an orderly adjustment of these matters. This school is growing strong, both in Parliament and out of it. It is presided over by men whose splendid talents we are amongst the foremost to recognise, and the purity of whose motives it would be churlish to suspect. We must presume upon their forgiveness, however, for stating that we admire their patriotism more than their philosophy—the warmth of their benevolence more than the reach of their wisdom. They deserve well for having attracted public notice to subjects heretofore lying in neglect—but, could they give effect to their wishes, themselves, perhaps, would be the first to perceive that they have unwittingly laboured to the serious detriment of the community. Now that the corn-laws are virtually repealed, we doubt not they will be up and doing. We are anxious, therefore, ere they entail irreparable mischief upon the country, to give them a respectful warning—to submit to them such considerations as have weight with our own minds—and to do what in us lies, to divert them, not from the pursuit of the important objects they have in view, but from seeking the attainment of them by unsuitable means.

It will not be imputed to us, we trust, that we underrate the value of these matters. Air and water for the poor—well-constructed houses, and tastily laid-out parks—cheap baths and public washhouses—museums and botanical gardens—an earlier release from toil, and easy access to sound instruction—all, we believe, would do much, far more, perhaps, than is anticipated, to promote popular comforts, to refine popular tastes, and to elevate popular morals. Squalor and wretchedness we have long regarded as the most prolific soils of vice—health, cleanliness, and education, as the best handmaids of virtue. Civilisation, it is true, will not, of itself, secure morality—but where civilisation is wanting, morality cannot thrive. We are very far, consequently, from depreciating the active and earnest pursuit of ends such as those we have described. But, certainly, we have grave doubts whether the agency of Government can be made permanently to subserve them—and whether the good effected by it in one direction is not greatly outbalanced by the evils it necessarily inflicts in another.

The ardent advocates of so-called practical legislation appear to us to be in radical error respecting the legitimate object and capabilities of civil government. "To do," is their notion of its immediate purpose—"to prevent what ought not to be done," is ours. It is the offspring of a dire necessity—an absolute evil, although a comparative good. True philosophy, therefore, teaches us to confine its action within the limits of that necessity to which it owes its birth. Rightly considered, it is a weapon of defence—not can it be converted into an instrument of aggression, without placing in peril most momentous interests. All government rests upon the basis of physical force. Whatever it does, it does by direct interference with individual liberty. Over the whole range of its action, it suppresses, by rendering superfluous, those instincts and exercises of the mind, in the free play of which we have the surest guarantee for human progress. Personal vigilance, forethought, contrivance, activity—care for the social welfare, sympathy with the suffering, responsibility for the public good—the most useful disciplinary, and, we may say, educational qualities of mind and heart, wither from inaction throughout that whole sphere of which Government takes possession. The transfer to legislative machinery of whole departments of duty which devolve, of right, upon society as such, and the due discharge of which, by society, is inseparably connected with its moral health and growth, whatever the immediate convenience accruing from the arrangement, is sure to be followed by permanently injurious results. The local and temporary advantage is purchased at the expense of general and abiding improvement—and the violation of the higher providential laws of social compensation draws after it mysterious penalties from which escape becomes hopeless.

We have sometimes wondered that the descriptive term by which a certain class of affairs is usually designated, does not beget suspicion as to the congruity of the means sought to be applied to them. "Social questions" should be dealt with by social machinery, not by political. They belong to the community—and can be fitly handled only by the community. They can no more be settled—settled, we mean, upon a just and rational basis—by political instrumentality, than can domestic responsibilities be discharged by public bodies. The order of a household is important—order in every household in the kingdom is emphatically of national importance—

but the government which should aim at the regulation of families would, in the main, miss its professed end, and would not fail to encompass us with tyrannical annoyances. Give to political rulers the management of social questions, and what will be the consequence? Why, that the adjustment of them will be squared to political exigencies, determined by political influences, and carried into effect with a view to political purposes. It has been so in the case of religion—it would soon become so in every other case. Official convenience would speedily be adopted as the standard by which to measure the merits and the efficiency of every project for the elevation of the masses.

We look with serious alarm upon the growing disposition to hand over to the Legislature, and through it to the Executive, every department of business in the transaction of which the people can be supposed to feel an interest. Formidable inroads have already been made upon national freedom and independence. The number of placemen is being rapidly augmented; and should these practical questions be fairly committed to the Government, electors in the pay of the state, or seeking to enjoy it, will constitute so large a minority as to be able, under the guidance of Ministers, to determine the complexion of the House of Commons. Commissions without end, each having its ample staff of officials, and doing trade to an immense extent with public money—all responsible to, and under the direct superintendence of, the Home Secretary, will at last find a match for public opinion, as they have already done in France, in every constituency of the empire. The country will wake up, some fine morning, and find all vestiges of constitutional freedom gone. In the place of their civil rights they will have parks, museums, and scientifically-drained and ventilated houses—and there will not be wanting philosophers to assure them, that material comforts constitute practical elevation—and that abstract questions relating to civil and religious liberty are best left behind in the march of national refinement.

Were there, however, no fear on this score, we should still object to submit social questions to legal regulations. Civil governments are essentially, and in the nature of things, conservative. Their plans are stereotyped. They abhor change. Society, on the contrary, is ever progressive—science is perpetually making new discoveries, and ingenuity is applying them to the affairs of practical life. That which may be a vast improvement now-a-days, may, half a century hence, be looked back upon as barbarous. But, once fashioned by law, it will continue, as a petrification, until advancing society, impatient of its endurance, shall break it to pieces. Were we—in our customs, manners, conventionalities, comforts, luxuries—stationary, like the Orientals, we might see less evil than now we do in the proposed course of the new school of political economists; but, as we discern not the wisdom of laboriously constructing barriers against future progress, or now taking two steps in advance on such conditions as will obstruct twenty hereafter, we prefer submission to present inconvenience. All that society really wants, society can do best for itself; and if, as yet, it is not alive to its duty, experience will soon teach it that whatever is wisely done may be done profitably, and that the indolence which neglects our neighbour's welfare will bring pestilence up to our own doors.

THE DEFERRED CONTEST.

THE debate in the House of Lords on the second reading of the Corn Bill, presents a highly important point. It closed with a distinct recommendation from the Duke of Wellington, to refer the final settlement of the struggle to the next elections. Under such a notice, it signifies little what the leaders of the League may nominally decide to do; the public must be alert and doing its duty. It is as if the Duke of Wellington on a day of battle, had sent a flag of truce to propose that the enemy should withdraw and occupy a new position at the distance of two days' march. What leaders might do after that, would depend on their own skill and judgment; but what the simple officers and soldiers would do, would clearly be to prepare for the deferred contest.

And in reality nothing more fortunate could have happened. It might suit the purpose of leaders, to sit down upon their glory; but the interest of the masses is that the strife should be kept up as long and as keenly as possible. There is the section of whom Lord Stanley is the representative, to be brought to the sifting of a general election, in order that no tittle may be lost of the advantage of pushing their absurdities to the diminution of their future influence. And there is the section of which Lords Brougham and Grey are the representatives, to be convinced that whether the League be an evil or not, it is a thing whose spirit will not die, but will continue henceforth to be an element in the direction of the state.

There may be other Leagues or there may not. But what the League has demonstrated that will never die, is that the real workshop in which public opinion moulds and prepares its measures, is in gatherings like the League, and not in a House of Commons from any representation in which nineteen-twentieths of the public are avowedly shut out, and the entrance to which is beset by every species of influence, and every contrivance which can virtually exclude the operation of the public interest. Such an assembly is only the place where the strength of public enemies is gauged and spanned. It is the registrar, of what public opinion

prepared and demonstrated in the other way, obliges it to concede. There is no quarrel with its continuing to be so; but the League has taught us, that the other, or what a Roman would have called the *comitia prima*, is the birthplace of freedom and reform.

Another result arises from this delegation of the contest to the electors. It is plain that the defeated plunderers, or the Protectionists, contemplate joining with the party who would not stop the plunder when they were in power and would not have stopped it now, to wreak their vengeance on the enlightened men who have put an end to the public mischief. No project ever more deserved a people's union to defeat it. Names, in a government, are of as little importance as beauty; with a minister it is always "handsome is that handsome does." If the existing government can learn by the failure of their rivals, to eschew babyisms upon "finality," and to keep honest men on their side by a perpetual filing of the causes of public complaint, they have perhaps hardly had time to turn their thoughts to the vast advantage placed before them by the military Duke's reference of the question to the next elections.

In the meantime, what is the League to do? Is it to dissolve itself and leave the Protectionists to carry the elections to which the Duke of Wellington has referred them? The proposal does not carry wisdom on the face of it. The fact is, the contest is now beginning, and the Duke has had the kindness to sound the bugle to the League to be up and doing.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.

WE deem it incumbent upon us to notice an event connected with the newspaper press, which may be characterised as at once novel and important. The *Daily News* has commenced a project, which, if conducted to a successful termination, will effectually break up the virtual monopoly enjoyed by the daily papers of this country. A journal conducted with great ability, devoted to the advocacy of many sound principles, containing all the information which newspaper readers ought to desire, published at the price of twopence halfpenny, and thus, by its extreme cheapness, seeking a new circle of readers, and addressing itself to large masses of men, hitherto all but excluded from this source of instruction—is an enterprise which patriotism bids us hail with acclamation. Most cordially do we wish it success, and that it may succeed we will venture a suggestion which, we trust, will be taken in good part. The *Daily News*, then, would do well to embody in its articles, not merely just and benevolent views on the social questions of the day, but bold, definite, and ultimate principles in regard to those political questions which will struggle for settlement during the next ten years. On the suffrage, on church establishments, and on some other of the weightier matters of legislation, decision is above all things required in a paper seeking what we may call a national circulation. We have hitherto seen in it comparatively little to find fault with; but we have not seen in it what we are sure its readers will expect—a determination to lead, rather than to follow, public opinion. The *Daily News* has now before it the chance of becoming the champion of the wronged, whether politically, commercially, or religiously. Let it understand its mission, and duly appreciate its importance—let it act worthily, fearless of the vulgar prejudices it may excite among the genteeler few of its readers—let it stick to right for right's sake, and rebuke wrong wherever found—and it will gain an influence mightier far than has yet been wielded by any single organ of public sentiment.

PECULIAR BURDENS ON LAND.

(From the *Spectator*.)

The Committee of the Lords have tacitly given up peculiar burdens on land as a plea against corn-law repeal. They say in their report—"The Committee considered themselves limited to an inquiry into the relative burdens on different descriptions of property within the kingdom: a more important consideration would probably be, the proportion of burdens on the cultivators of the land in this country as compared with those borne by the cultivators of foreign countries intended to be admitted into competition with them in the same market." It is difficult to conceive that their lordships are sincere in the first assertion. The Committee was appointed with a view to the pending Corn Bill; and in reference to it, the inquiry which they call "more important" was the only one which had for them a direct and immediate interest. The report adds, that the Committee "were of opinion that their instructions precluded them from following up this description of inquiry." The instructions do not forbid them; and this use of the omission to instruct them to institute an investigation has a very suspicious aspect.

But this is not all: the committee did receive evidence upon this head, and were challenged to declare their opinion on it. In the very able draft report proposed by Lord Montagu it is expressly stated, that "In making these suggestions the committee are fully aware that the burdens imposed by law directly upon land in England, do not bear so high a proportion in England to the whole taxation of the country, as is the case in many foreign states. So far as Prussia and parts of Germany are concerned, this fact may be deduced from the evidence of Mr. Banfield." The committee did not negative this assertion: they merely declined to adopt it. And they allude to another witness, Mr. Cramp, who gave evidence respecting the north of France, entirely concurring with that of Mr. Banfield. The silence of the committee, at a time when it was (or when they thought it) of so much consequence to them to be able to show that land in England bore a greater proportional burden of taxation than in other countries, is an ample confession that it does not.

The recommendations annexed to the report of their Committee may therefore be considered apart altogether from the *questio vexata* of corn-laws. This is what every

unprejudiced person wishes, and what, above all, the landowners ought to wish. If these recommendations are in themselves just and necessary, it facilitates their adoption to separate them from association with irrelevant and exciting controversies.

The recommendations are—we recapitulate them in the inverse order of their importance—1. That experiments be instituted to test the process of fattening cattle by malted barley; 2. "The adoption of the liability of the owner of houses, under the annual value of £10, to the rates at which the same are assessed;" 3. The charge of the militia to be provided for by Parliament; 4. The maintenance of pauper lunatics, and some branches of the expenditure for the poor, to be undertaken by the general public; 5. Counties and boroughs to be relieved from the cost of criminal prosecutions and other expenses relating to prisoners; 6. Improvements in the law of real property and conveyancing.

The first of these recommendations being placed last in the report, has the air of an anti-climax. Surely the agriculturists can institute these experiments for themselves, without the aid of Government; else what is the use of their agricultural societies?

The bearing of the second recommendation on the question at issue is not very obvious. If these rates are a peculiar burden on the agricultural interest, they cannot become less so by merely being shifted from the occupant to the owner. The proposal looks generous; but, as allowance will be made in the rent when the tenant pays, it will come to the same thing in the end.

The proposal to make the militia a general charge is fair in itself, corn law or no corn law.

The fourth recommendation, if adopted, would increase the centralisation of the new poor law. This is a proposal of very questionable soundness, and sure to encounter violent opposition.

The recommendation to relieve counties and boroughs from the expenses of criminal proceedings, and to appoint a public prosecutor—for that is the English of the fifth recommendation—is wise and important. It is difficult, however to see what bearing it has upon the peculiar burdens on land, since, from the language of the committee, it appears to press quite as heavily on the trading as on the agricultural portion of the community.

The sixth recommendation is the really important one. It was worth while to appoint a committee—it would have been worth while to organise the anti-corn-law agitation, had it done no more than bring their lordships to adopt this conclusion. A committee of the House of Lords have deliberately recorded their opinion that the law of real property and the system of conveyancing ought to be thoroughly reformed. They have declared that an indispensable preliminary to this reform is the establishment of an effective system for the registration of deeds. It is in the House of Lords that measures to accomplish these ends can be most effectively originated.

THE AUTOCRAT DUKE.—We can never sufficiently appreciate the advantages of having a great soldier in the Cabinet, and a field marshal in the House of Lords. It immensely facilitates the mechanical process of change. Nothing is so desultory—so apt to clog its own movements—so blind to its destiny—so apt to waste its resources—as a legislative crowd. The moment they are frightened they get into a heap, and begin to tread on one another's toes. They are too great for the drill. For many more important reasons, therefore, than that particularised by the Roman Emperor, it is desirable that a Senate should have one head. The Duke of Wellington supplies, in the Lords, that important desideratum. After a due amount of reconnoitering, feeling, demonstrating, skirmishing, and other minor preliminaries, he matures his plan in politic silence. Just on the eve of the struggle he informs his generals what they must do. Aides-de-camp fly with his orders. Chiefs listen to his instructions. No matter how little the soldier, or the officer, or even the commander of a division, knows of the general plan. It is theirs to hear and obey. If the Peers threaten to be rather too high and mighty, or if they show indications of jibbing, there is a reserve which will either supply their places or push them on. The Brobdingnag Duke pulls out of his pocket fifty mannikin Peers, who count as much as the best for this kind of warfare. The affair goes off with all the grace and composure of a parade. The word of command is all that they wait for. Attention! Right about! And they all are converted by intuition, and turn by instinct. The people is at the same time edified by a revolution and entertained with a spectacle.—*Times*.

THE CORN-LAWS AND THE FARMERS.—We think that all who regard the repeal of those laws as fraught with injury to British agriculture should ask themselves this question—"Is it not possible that we may have been mistaken in our views? may not our apprehensions be groundless?" We must, for our own part, confess that circumstances are daily occurring which lead us to doubt whether the results will be of such a serious nature as has been anticipated.—*Mark-lane Express* (agricultural paper).

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.—In round numbers, the bills which have been favourably reported on by committees on their merits, or have attained to a still further stage, already amount to a capital of £70,000,000, and there is every reasonable probability that acts will be passed involving a capital of more than £100,000,000. The dissolution bill has thus proved comparatively useless. Lord Fitzwilliam, we observe, has given notice of a measure for staying all the bills before their third reading, in order that they may then be considered as a whole; and for providing that Parliament may meanwhile procure some data and principles for this great adjudication.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.—Three weeks is the time named for Sir R. Peel's withdrawal from office. On the Coercion Bill, which he will immediately after the Corn Bill bring before the House, he will certainly be in a minority; and then comes the sugar question, on which an awkward pledge of Mr. Gladstone's, given some time back, will greatly embarrass the Government.—*Daily News*.—The fate of "the Irish Coercion Bill" is sealed. We have the utmost gratification in being enabled to announce that Lord George Bentinck, the professed and acknowledged leader of the Protectionist party, has declared the determination of the great majority of the English agricultural members to oppose the future progress of this measure.—*Morning Advertiser*.

THE LAW OF LIBEL.

(From the *Eclectic Review*.)

The case which has brought the law of libel before the public eye, is less remarkable from its own circumstances, than from the exhibition of judicial bearings and opinions which has been founded on them. That a member of a state-church should be overbearing and violent, is no phenomenon to shake a nation from its propriety, or to invite it to any marked course which it would not have taken without. But when this member of a state-church succeeds in finding a man to answer him with a Roland for his Oliver, and the leaders of the law, or an effective portion of them, come forward to declare, that in all pulling of caps the state scold has an immunity,—that she is a privileged virago whom ducking-stools have no hold upon, and may insult her betters, either in the open air or under cover, without remedy,—the right of pigeon-cote, which was one of the causes of the French revolution, was nothing to it. The Church, like the French aristocracy, is founded on anything but a rock. Many a bitter feeling has been crushed and wrought into its walls. It is at best but a tolerated injustice; the toleration resulting from an estimate of the difficulty of removal. The strength of the church, and of the aristocracy, arose out of the way in which they were connected with the interests of many, though not of all; interests, perhaps, not always thoroughly or well understood, but still felt sufficiently to be effective. Some of these interests came by marriage and family connexions; a point on which the living hierarchy of England has vastly the advantage over that which has passed away. Some rose out of gratitude for past gains, and still more out of that kind of it which has been defined as a lively consciousness of benefits to come. A circumstance in favour of both church and aristocracy, was the opportunity which wealth and power give to all but the actively malevolent, of acquiring a reputation for polished and agreeable manners; in short, the strength of the church denominated of England, lay in its being thought a gentlemanly church, as the strength of an aristocracy everywhere lies, to a great extent, in its being supposed to possess some similar quality which other men admire and aspire to copy. But this was a fund to be discreetly drawn upon, and not to be managed by clergymen engaging in unhandsome feud with men as good as themselves and as well able to resist an injury. Still less was it to be improved by having it declared as "judge's quest law," that a clergyman had right of impudence;—that to be saucy was his fee simple, in which nobody could control him;—and that to comment upon his public acts, "or say whether they were good or bad," was beyond the scope of the citizen. A new light broke out, even while the dictum was in progress. A bill brought into the Upper House by the Lord Chancellor opened the dark lantern on the fact, that these very acts of the state-paid clergymen which were declared to be his ox, his ass, his privacy, his snuggery within which none might interfere, were performances for non-attendance on which one part of the community were punishable by law, and the other part if they attended anywhere else. Why has not a Queen's speech the same immunity; or rather, if the other be law, can there be any doubt that it has? There is as much reason in representing the one to be an act of sacred privacy, as the other. A general's order to his army, might it not be very convenient to maintain, that as long as he did not put it into print, it was safe from the comments of the public critic? The thing is absurd, by all the rules that regulate human judgment in parallel cases. If a man is to be paid, let him do the work he is paid for, whether the payment comes out of other people's pockets against their consent or not. But do not add the folly, with a view to increasing his magnificence, of maintaining that it shall be an actionable offence to say whether his doings are good or bad, whether they keep within the pale for which the appropriation of other people's property is defended when it is defended, or wander abroad into interminable feud and a right of squabble protected by the power of law. What would be the result if dissenting teachers everywhere walked abroad in their doublet and hose, and threw off the outer garment of moderation and civil harmony? Yet this is what the sages of the law have encouraged every whipper-snapper on whom a bishop has laid unadvised hands, to provoke to the extent of his ability. Bring forth the giant, for whose personal gratification the Church and the law have incurred all this unpopularity and danger. Ask, who is benefited by the execution of his ill humours; or which of "our peculiar institutions," as an American would call them, is rendered more stable by his sending an execution by surprise into the domicile of his opponent. Take care that holy Church never finds herself under obligation for forbearance in a more important matter. Offences will come, and human disputes will be fought out in one way or another, according to the relative degrees of civilisation of the ages and the combatants. But woe to them who make them come for the mere indulgence of ill-temper, and peril a plethoric hierarchy that a parish priest may be lifted up in the eyes of the virgins who make coats and garments for the orthodox poor. Truly these people have a new reading of many an ancient story. Where would the good Samaritan have been, if he had prefaced his work with a discussion upon thirty-nine articles? And what stronger contrast in nature, than between him who went about doing good, and the shepherd who sits down to make all the mischief in his power within the limits of a parish?

THE REV. MR. CAUGHEY is creating an immense sensation in Nottingham. The list of his converts is already approaching upwards of nine hundred.—*Sheffield Independent*.

Now that the Lords have passed the second reading of the Corn-bill the *Morning Herald* declares an hereditary House of Peers to be a nuisance, and calls for an elective upper House!

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES are about to be supplied to the poorer inhabitants of Worcester.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

(From our own Correspondent.)

New York, May 15th, 1846.

Your readers will, perhaps, have already heard of the commencement of hostilities in Mexico, between the United States and that country; if not, this mail will convey to you the intelligence, together with the knowledge of the circumstances which have transpired since the news has received undoubted confirmation. As your "American correspondent," therefore, it becomes my duty to present to you, as far as possible, a correct and succinct account of the facts and circumstances of the case, which I will endeavour to do in as brief a space as is consistent with the importance of the subject.

The Mexican force first assumed a belligerent attitude on the 12th of April, when General Ampudia, then in command, notified General Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and retire beyond the Nueces river; continuing, that, in the event of his failure to comply with his demands, he should consider hostilities as commenced, and act accordingly. Like many previous notices of the kind, however, it appeared to be a mere braggadocio attempt, on the part of the Mexican general, to get rid of his unpleasant neighbour by a gentler means than open war, and in this light it was generally considered. On Thursday evening, the 23rd ult., however, General Taylor received information that a large body of the Mexican army had crossed to the east side of the river Grande, at a point some twenty miles above his encampment, thus cutting off the only connexion between him and his supplies, and thereby placing the American army in a most dangerous position. On the following morning, therefore, he sent out a party of seventy men, under the command of two officers, to examine the country above the encampment, who, falling in with what they supposed to be a scouting party of the enemy—but which proved to be the advanced guard of a powerful body of the main army—immediately charged upon them, and found themselves instantly surrounded by the enemy, twenty-six of their number killed, and the remainder taken prisoners. As soon as these facts became known to General Taylor, and he had received ocular demonstration that no less than 2,500, or, as some say, 7,000, of the Mexican army were actually in his immediate rear, having taken up their position in a dense *chaparra* (a wood composed chiefly of prickly pear, and almost impassable), between him and his depot of provisions and munitions of war at Point Isabel, he despatched a special message to Washington, by way of New Orleans, with requisitions to the Governors of Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama, for immediate assistance.

In this situation the latest news left him. He is undoubtedly in a most critical position; the country between the encampment and the depot of provisions at Point Isabel is represented to be an almost impassable forest of low timber and prickly pear, entirely unfit for the movements of troops, and in which the Mexicans have the decided advantage. Besides this, there is a strong and powerful enemy, more than equal to the whole of his army, hanging on his immediate rear, and another directly opposite him on the other side of the Rio Grande at Metamoras, more than doubling his entire force. Certain it is that the enemy on both sides of the river does not number less than *seven thousand*—probably *twelve thousand*. General Taylor's position, however, near Metamoras, is sufficiently strong to withstand the united attack of the whole Mexican force, and, as he has in his camp full rations for fifteen days, which could be eked out to last thirty days, there is little fear of an unsuccessful or very disastrous issue to the American side, for in less time than either of these, a sufficient force can be collected and sent to relieve him.

But I must leave General Taylor, and turn to the effect which this news has had amongst us, which is on the whole far more important.

Naturally, the receipt of the intelligence that war was actually commenced, has caused the greatest excitement throughout the country. In New Orleans, especially, the nearest commercial city in the United States proper, to the seat of war, the effect seems to have been almost indescribable. The whole city is represented to be in a state of unparalleled agitation; guns firing, troops parading, bands playing, and orators speech-making, and the newspapers increasing the hubbub with their "extras" and supplements of "further news." Late intelligence, however, by last evening's mail, speaks not so favourably for the crescent city's patriotism, and volunteering is not so active as was anticipated. Troops are coming into the city from neighbouring forts, however, and the governor, it is presumed, will resort to a draft to raise the requisite force; as yet, not more than 1,200 volunteers have come forward. At Galveston, Texas, immediately on receipt of the news, a meeting of the officers of the forces established there was called, and means taken to send a supply of troops to General Taylor's assistance. The legislature of Louisiana has also passed a bill for the appropriation of a hundred thousand dollars to equip and forward volunteers to Point Isabel.

The news reached Washington late on Saturday evening, and, from the important nature of the intelligence, it was deemed proper to call a meeting of the Cabinet on the following Sunday morning. The committee of military affairs of the House of Representatives also held an extra meeting on the same day to prepare a bill, authorising the President to levy *fifty thousand* volunteers and appropriate *ten millions* of dollars to meet the emergency. The bill, after

some discussion, was finally passed on Monday last by a vote of 174 to 14 (John Quincy Adams voting in the negative), under the title of "An act to Provide for the Prosecution of the existing War between the United States and the Republic of Mexico," was presented in the Senate on the following day, Tuesday, and passed that body by a vote of 50 to 2 at half-past six the same day, Messrs. John Davis and Thomas Clayton voting in the negative; Messrs. Berrian, Calhoun, Evans, and Huntingdon, refusing to vote, and Messrs. Mongum, J. M. Clayton, Dayton, Upham, and Crittenden, voting under protest against the preamble, which assumes that a state of war actually exists. The bill received the signature of the Vice-president on Wednesday morning last, and of the President on the same day, who immediately issued the following official proclamation of war, which reached this city last night by magnetic telegraph.

PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, by virtue of the constitutional authority vested in them, have declared by their act, bearing date this day, that by the act of the republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between the two Governments:

Now, therefore, I, James K. Polk, President of these United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern; and I do specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, civil or military, under the authority of the United States, that they be vigilant and zealous in discharging the duties respectively incident thereto. And I do, moreover, exhort all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they feel the wrongs which have forced on them the last resort of injured nations, and as they consult the best means under the blessing of Divine Providence of abridging the calamities, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord and maintaining the authority—the efficiency of the laws in supporting and invigorating all the means which may be adopted by the Constitutional Authorities for obtaining a speedy termination and an honourable peace.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents.

Done at the City of Washington the 13th day of May, 1846, and year of independence of the United States the seventieth.

By the President, JAMES K. POLK.
JAMES BUCHANAN, Secretary.

Such is the state of things at this time existing. No one can with certainty tell what the next news will be, but, of whatever nature, it is looked for with the most painful anxiety. It is confidently predicted by many that General Taylor will have fought his way through the Mexican army to his supplies at Point Isabel; but after duly weighing the whole circumstances of the case, I think nothing is more improbable. He would be a bold man who would attempt such an adventure in the face of an army more than treble his superior in number, and commanded by such men as Generals Arista, Ampudia, Mezia, and Canales, Colonels Carasco, and Carojabol, all known as men of no ordinary military talent and experience.

The Mexican general, Ampudia, has been endeavouring to take advantage of the known spirit of disaffection existing in the American army, and has caused circulars to be distributed among the American troops, addressed "To the English and Irish under the orders of the American General Taylor," appealing to their national prejudices against the American nation, &c., as reasons why they should decline to fight under the "flag of the stars," representing that nation as "unworthy of the designation of Christian," and guaranteeing to all who should join the Mexican ranks on his "sacred honour," good treatment and payment of expenses till their arrival in the "beautiful capital of Mexico." Whether or not there will be found any so lost to a sense of honour as to accept the offer of the Mexican general I cannot tell, but the fact that there have been found men who would distribute his circular speaks not very favourably for the probable result.

The first thought of the reader, on hearing of the hostile attitude of the two nations towards each other, will be, What was the cause of this? and, after then satisfying his mind, the question will arise, Can President Polk be justified in the course he has taken? Decidedly I think not. His gloss on this subject, in his late special message to Congress, covering the official documents relating to the breaking out of open hostilities, and recommending that war be proclaimed, is, in my opinion, most unwarranted. He has known all along that Mexico would not receive a full Minister from the American Government, under the existing circumstances, nor mingle the question of Texas with any other. What they required, and repeatedly declared, was, a special envoy to treat of the Texian question alone. Of course, therefore, the mission Mr. Polk sent fell through; but can Mexico be blamed for this? To quote the language of a leading political journal in this city—

"Texas having been annexed, it was right and proper that our army should have been sent to occupy and protect it; but it by no means followed that they were to be sent to Metamoras or even Corpus Christi. We claimed to the left bank of the Rio del Norte; but Mexico denied that Texas extended to that river; and, while the country was in dispute, and inasmuch as Texas had never occupied the territory in question, it was no part of the duty, or even the right, of the executive to send troops into the disputed territory. We would not have dared to treat England thus; and it was cowardly to do to a weak nation what we dared not do to a powerful one. We therefore protested strongly against the occupation of Corpus Christi; but Congress and the nation having acquiesced in this high-handed measure, the subject was permitted to sleep. The question now arises, Why were our troops moved from Corpus Christi to take post opposite Metamoras? Did not their presence at Corpus Christi, in the heart of the disputed territory, satisfy all the purposes of peace? Was not this military occupation everything that could be desired for the vindication of our honour, and the establishment, so far as occupation could establish it, of our title? Why, then, was our army of occupation sent to the banks of the Rio del Norte, and required to make a hostile demonstration opposite an important Mexican city?"

In order that your readers may understand General Taylor's position more clearly, and thus have an intelligent idea of the foregoing, I send you enclosed the following extracts from different journals treating on the subject:—

Point Isabel is on the Gulf of Mexico, and about thirty miles north of the mouth of the Rio Grande. From Point Isabel to Metamoras, is some sixty or a hundred miles by way of the river, while by land it is but twenty miles. Gen. Taylor could not send his provisions up the Rio Grande, because the vessels could at any moment have been destroyed by the Mexicans on the right bank of that river. His only safety, therefore, was in establishing a depôt at Point Isabel, and keeping his communication open with that place.

Gen. Taylor's camp extends about four miles along the river bank—two miles above, and two miles below, Metamoras. The entrenchment to erect it required twenty-three hundred men for thirty days. It is made of sand, and covered over with twigs woven together like basket-work, surrounded by a very wide and deep ditch. The walls of the magazine, in the interior of the fortification, are formed of pork barrels filled with sand, seven tier thick, four tier high, covered over with timber, on which sand is piled ten or twelve feet. Twelve heavy pieces of ordnance are so placed as to command the town of Metamoras. Five hundred men could defend the fortification against any force the Mexicans could bring against it at present.

The effect of the news on trade has, as yet, not been very considerable. Owing to the apprehension, however, that Government may require loans in order to enable it to carry on the war effectually, U. S. stock has fallen, within the last week, from 109 and 110 as low as 106. But unless the war is of much longer duration than every one anticipates, the money already appropriated will be fully sufficient for all purposes, and there are enough surplus funds in the Treasury to meet that amount. The insurance companies, however, have added three per cent. to the premiums paid on voyages to the Gulf of Mexico, and have inserted the war clause in all their other policies. But the worst effect has been in causing all the creditor accounts opened with the southern cities to be closed up immediately, and the withdrawal of numerous large orders on northern houses. Money is much the same as at the sailing of the last steamer.

In regard to the Oregon, Tariff, and Sub-Treasury Bills, nothing has been done by either House of Congress this last fortnight; indeed, the Mexican affair has thrown every thing else in the shade.

This has been the week of our far-famed "May Anniversaries," of which I intended to say a word or two, but time and space forbid; suffice it to say, that the reports given represent all in a very favourable condition. I have had the pleasure of attending one or two myself, and have observed that the interest of the public in the great subjects of the operations of the various societies is by no means abating.

P.S. Since the foregoing was written, news has arrived in this city that Point Isabel has been captured by the Mexicans; but I believe there is no foundation in truth for the report, and the news receives little credit. I give it for what it is worth, however, but am strongly convinced that there is no truth in it. It is a mere "catchpenny," got up for the special purpose of being sent to England by this afternoon's mail. There is no further news from the American army.

H. S. S.

INSURRECTION IN PORTUGAL.

Intelligence from Portugal announces the downfall of the Cabral ministry, and a general state of insurrection throughout the country. Public excitement was at its greatest height, and all classes were in consternation and alarm. Count Villa de Real was sent for by the Queen to form a ministry, but in which he failed. The Duke de Palmella was then commissioned to undertake the arduous and responsible duty, but had not succeeded when these accounts came away; however, he had not abandoned the hope of accomplishing the important object.—The troops of the late Government are sympathising with the people, and all is agitation, especially at Lisbon. A letter from that place says:—

The present movement is not the mere striving of one faction against another: it is a general nation uprising against oppression; and the multitudes now in arms, will not allow themselves to be cajoled into submission by the substitution of one set of men for another. Depend upon it, a thorough revolution is at hand, and the charter which Costa Cabral restored by a military coup de main from years ago, will soon have to give way once more to the popular constitution of 1838, or to some other constitution yet to be made.—Public excitement becomes greater every moment; nothing but a downright ultra ministry, with no titled men in it, will satisfy the people; and a popular tumult is apprehended as soon as the expected transition cabinet is announced.

At the last moment tranquillity prevailed in Lisbon, and, so far as we can learn, in all parts of the kingdom. The news of the dismissal of the Cabral ministry, which was forwarded by express on Sunday, would, doubtless, tranquillise the insurgents of the Minho, or at least continue the suspension of hostilities till definitive results are known. Two hours before the departure of the packet he was stated, in the highest quarters, to have definitively composed his cabinet of the following persons:—Presidency of the Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Duke of Palmella; Interior, Count Lavradio; Finance (unchanged), Count Tojal; War, Jose Jorje Loureiro; Justice, Souza Azevedo; Marine and Colonies, Jervis Athouglis. The new Administration is entirely composed of Chartists, and nearly all its members were in the combinations formed between the revolution of Oporto, in January, 1842, and the definitive construction of the Cabral ministry in the April of that year. The immediate cause of the insurrection seems to have been the enforcement of the payment of an obnoxious tax; but there is no doubt that the despotic yoke of the Cabral administration had at length become intolerable. Some idea may be formed of the sort of government which has existed in this country for some years under the Cabrals, when it is stated that frauds of the most ex-

tensive description have been practised by one government department or another, involving in their consequences the safety of the Sovereign and the State. The people pay more taxes now than they did in 1842, when the Cabral ministry was formed, by the sum of 1,556 contos.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

ESCAPE OF PRINCE LOUIS NAPOLEON FROM HAM.—Prince Louis Napoleon, after a captivity of six years, made his escape from the fortress of Ham on Monday week. The *Morning Post* supplies the following details—amusing from their naïve circumstantiality and foreign idiom:—

The confidants of the Prince were his physician, Dr. Conneau, and Charles Thelin, his secretary. Both of these gentlemen enjoyed the privilege of going to town. Several workmen being employed in making some repairs which the Prince had asked for, he resolved on taking the clothes of one of them, and to start in that disguise. The difficulty was not only to pass the guardians and the soldiers, but also to make his way amidst the workmen. Notwithstanding this difficulty, it was resolved that Charles Thelin would ask the commander of the fortress permission to go to St. Quentin, and that he would provide a conveyance openly for that purpose, as had already been done on different occasions. The Prince, after choosing the early part of the morning for effecting his escape, put on a carpenter's clothes, and got a board, which he carried on his shoulder to conceal his face whenever he found himself in a dangerous situation. Charles Thelin was to go before the Prince, in order to attract the attention of the guardians, whilst Dr. Conneau was retaining the other. But, once the Prince in the yard, Thelin was to follow him, in order to call on anyone willing to address the Prince as a workman. On Monday morning the attempt was made. The Prince shaved himself, blackened his hair, put on a blouse, and a board on his shoulder. Although the workmen had been drawn into an adjoining room, scarcely had the Prince left his room when he met several of them, whom Thelin fortunately called to him. But it was necessary to pass two guardians who were standing at the bottom of the stairs. Whilst Thelin was speaking to one of them, the Prince came face to face with the other guardian. But fortunately the Prince put the board in such a way as to prevent the guardian from seeing him. The Prince at last reached safely the yard, and passed the soldiers and workmen employed in the fortress, avoiding being known by putting his board on that side from which he apprehended being looked at. When out, he was overtaken by his faithful Thelin, who had already provided a vehicle; and in that way the Prince arrived at St. Quentin, after throwing into a field the clothes that had served to disguise him. The Prince crossed St. Quentin on foot, whilst Thelin was getting a post-chaise ready. They were very soon at Valenciennes; where they crossed the frontier with Belgian passports. They then proceeded to Ostend; whence they proceeded to England; and the Prince arrived there even before his disappearance was known in Ham.

He reached London on Wednesday night. He intends to quit England for Florence in the course of the ensuing week, there to join his invalid father, whose health is rapidly on the decline. The Prince, since his arrival here on Wednesday last, has preserved the strictest incognito. In a letter to Count St. Aulaire, the French Ambassador in England, the Prince says:—

"I wish to declare candidly to the man who was the friend of my mother, that in quitting my prison I have not been actuated by any idea of renewing against the French government a war which has been disastrous to myself, but only to be enabled to approach my aged father. I beg, Monsieur le Comte, that you will inform the French Government of my peaceable intentions; and I hope that such spontaneous assurance on my part will shorten the captivity of my friends who still remain in prison."

TORREY IS DEAD.—This friend of the slave and of humanity—this earnest and devoted follower of Christ, is no more! He died in the Baltimore state's prison. On Saturday last his spirit ascended, unfettered and unconfined, to the God who gave it. And now that the body can feel no longer the torturings of hatred, malice, and revenge, the governor has yielded the cold, lifeless corpse to his friends for burial.—*Christian Citizen*.

NATIONAL COLOURED CONVENTION.—It is proposed by the coloured people to hold a national convention, some time next summer, in Cleveland, Ohio. The object is to concentrate opinion, among themselves, upon some plan of colonisation. Some of them think of asking for a part of Oregon.—*Ibid*.

IMPORTANT FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Cape Town papers of the 28th of March inclusive, announce that a war with a portion of Caffreland, if not with portions of all its tribes, may be speedily expected to break out. The outrage which has brought on this critical state of affairs occurred on the 26th of the above month. A Caffir belonging to one of Tolka's kraals was accused of stealing an axe at Fort Beaufort, for which he was arrested and sent to trial, with an escort of four armed Hottentots. The prisoner was rescued by a party of thirty or forty Caffirs, headed by the prisoner's brother, who was killed in the scuffle, and one of the escort was murdered. In order to put a stop to this and other depredations, lately become so frequent, the Lieutenant-Governor had issued orders for arming all the colonists able to take the field, in the Grahamstown district, to aid the military in inflicting punishment on the whole tribe, if full reparation was not instantly made, and the culprits delivered up.

MASSACRE OF FRENCH PRISONERS IN ALGIERS.—Letters from Oran of the 10th, announce that the whole of the French prisoners in the Dheira of Abd-el-Kader, with the exception of seven or eight, have been barbarously massacred by orders of that chief. The number who have met with this cruel fate is said to be about 300. The cause of this barbarous act is said to be the critical position in which the Emir is placed, and the fear that the prisoners would be taken possession of by the Morocco tribes. Abd-el-Kader has retired into the west of Morocco.

ROMISH ABOLITIONISTS.—The *Universal German Gazette* states, that since the Pope addressed an apostolical letter to the Sovereigns of Christendom, inviting them to abolish or soften the rigours of the slave-trade, some nuns have gone to Cairo to procure the freedom, by purchase, of Ethiopian women. Forty of these women redeemed from slavery had recently arrived at Rome. They are to proceed to Chambery, in Savoy, where they will receive a Christian education.

In consequence of the recent treaty with China, which secures protection to Christian missionaries, several French priests are about to embark for different parts of that empire.

BORNEO.—By a private letter brought by the India mail, and dated Point de Galle, April 16, 1846, we have intelligence of painful interest from Borneo, arising out of those desperate acts of piracy so prevalent on that island. Mr. Brookes, then at Sarawak, had communicated to the Governor-General of India, that Pangeran Badredien had been attacked by order of the Sultan of Borneo Proper, at some place near Labuan Island. The Rajah defended himself bravely; but being seriously wounded, he retired into his house, and called his wife and sister, and then ordered his servants to bring a barrel of gunpowder. He took his ring from his finger, and gave it to the servant, desiring him to take it to Mr. Brookes, and immediately fired the powder, thus destroying himself and family, about thirty in number, who were all blown through the roofs of the houses. But, besides his own family, there were many others destroyed, who were well-disposed towards the English, and who assisted in putting down piracy, which the Sultan is determined to revive again at all hazards. He has ordered forts to be built at the entrance of all the small rivers; and he now bids defiance to the English. The Rajah's ring was subsequently taken by force from the servant, but the man made his escape, and got on board her Majesty's ship *Hazard*. He warned the captain not to land on that part of the coast, as the Sultan had given orders to capture all the English, more especially the captain. The *Hazard* then proceeded to Sarawak (to Mr. Brookes), and from thence to Singapore. The Sultan has ordered Mr. Brookes to be poisoned, or killed in any way that may present itself! Mr. Brookes has requested that a steamer may be sent to Sarawak. Colonel Butterworth has, in consequence, ordered the *Phlegethon* to proceed there, and place herself under the orders of Mr. Brookes.

The tide of emigration still flows: no fewer than 6,396 persons, of all sizes, sexes, and denominations, arrived at New York during the month of April; this being an increase of 2,055 over the month of March. Great Britain sent 4,986; France, 1,078, chiefly Germans; Bremen and Hamburg, 115.—*New York Herald*.

BAD SYMPTOMS.—It would appear that the French government is really about placing guns on the detached forts round Paris, notwithstanding the half-denials of the ministerial prints.—The Spanish Minister of Finance had paid the clergy the sum of 19,000,000 reals during the month of May.

WHOLESALE CONVERSION ON THE HUNGARIAN FRONTIERS.—Between twenty-five and thirty districts, with a population of 2,500 or 3,000 souls, of the (united) Greek religion, have gone over to the non-united (the Russian) religion, thereby causing a great sensation throughout the country.

The French ministry have gained a new and decisive victory over the Opposition. The Chamber of Deputies rejected on Friday, by a majority of 220 to 147, the amendment of M. Odillon Barrot, proposing a reduction of 10,000*fr.* in the amount of the secret service funds required by the Minister of the Interior.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the National School Society was held on Wednesday, in the Central School-rooms, Sanctuary, Westminster. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided. Many of the bishops and other dignitaries of the Church were present, as well as a considerable number of influential laymen. The report stated that, at Battersea, 72 young men were under training for schoolmasters; and, during the last year, 35 had completed their term of training, and had been placed in charge of schools. The receipts on account of the special fund were £132,000, of which the committee had expended and promised £111,639. At St. Mark's College, Chelsea, 69 young men are now under instruction. The Westminster training institutions for adult male and female teachers, the model schools, the infant school, and the training institutions for females at Whitelands, Chelsea, were also stated to be in active operation. The subscriptions and donations to the general fund amounted to £4,408, a sum exceeding that of the previous year by £342. The Bishop of Oxford appealed to the landed interest on behalf of the education of the poor:—

It was their duty to speak unflinchingly to the owners of property, and to tell them that for their own safety they must labour more heartily and earnestly to provide machinery for the education of the people. Already the owners of property in many parts of the country had responded with great liberality to the appeals that had been made to them. In Hampshire the Lord-lieutenant of the county, the Duke of Wellington, had set a glorious example by providing schools, at which the children of all his peasantry could have a good English church education.

He made an appeal on behalf of the schoolmaster:—

The schoolmaster could not give up his heart to his work if it were the seat of lurking care about the means of subsistence. But the money-payment was not the only thing—the good opinion of society was much more important. He wanted to get back to the old state of things when every schoolmaster had his bishop's license—that is, the acknowledgment that he was one of the clergy of the land. He did not wish to effect this by legislative enactments, but by acknowledging the schoolmaster as occupying a place and position in the society of a country parish.

Mr. Cooper suggested that some means should be adopted for conveying religious education into the meanest courts and alleys of the metropolis, by establishments in the nature of ragged schools, an idea which elicited much applause.

THE BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.—We understand the bishop has taken his passage in the fine ship *Prince of Wales*, Captain Hopkins, to sail about the 26th of August, for Bengal.—*Allen's Indian Mail*.

The Great Western (says the *European Times*) carries out, on her present trip, the answer of the British Government to the President's notice; which, we have reason to believe, is of a conciliatory and friendly character. If this overture be favourably received, we may hope that in four or five weeks the Oregon controversy may be settled, and a final treaty of partition signed.

CORN IMPORTATION BILL.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MAY 28.

MAJORITY—PRESENT, 138.

Lord Chancellor	Dalhousie	Lovelace	Thurlow
DUKES.	Aberdeen	Zetland	Lyttleton
Norfolk	Roseberry	Auckland	Calthorpe
St. Albans	Glasgow	Ellenborough	Blayney
Buccleuch	Cowper	Uxbridge	Gardner
Roxburgh	Radnor	Bruce	Rivers
Leinster	Spencer	viscounts.	Sandys
Wellington	Bathurst	Strathallan	Crewe
MARQUES.	Clarendon	Torrington	Churchill
Winchester	Talbot	Sydney	Prudhoe
Huntley	Fortescue	Clifton	Howden
Lansdowne	Liverpool	Hawarden	Glenlyon
Abercorn	Meath	Canning	Delamere
Sligo	Beesborough	BISHOPS.	Forester
Camden	Mornington	Durham	Wharfedale
Cholmondeley	Courtoun	Lincoln	Brougham
Londonderry	Charlemont	Chester	Dinorben
Conyngham	Clanwilliam	Ripon	Denman
Ormonde	Clare	Salisbury	Carew
Clanricarde	Leitrim	Norwich	Glenelg
Breadalbane	Bandon	Hereford	Hatherton
Westminster	Rosslyn	St. David's	Stratford
Normanby	Craven	Worcester	Cottonham
EARLS.	Romney	Lichfield	Langdale
Devon	Chichester	Oxford	Loat
Suffolk	Gosford	Tuam	Portman
Denbigh	Grey	LORDS.	De Mauley
Westmorland	Minto	Dacre	Wrottesley
Essex	Vernham	Camrois	Sudeley
Shaftesbury	St. German's	Byron	Leigh
Scarborough	Morley	Rollo	Lurgan
Jersey	Howe	Kinnaird	Dunfermline
Erroll	Burlington	Montfort	Monteagle
Home	Ripon	Foley	Keane
Haddington	Granville	Carteret	Campbell
Galloway	Effingham	Suffield	Vivian

PROXIES, 73.

ARCHBISHOP.	Ailsa	Camperdown	Dunally
Canterbury	EARLS.	Lichfield	Abercromby
DUKES.	Pembroke	Ducie	Erskine
Somerset	Lindsey	viscounts.	Manners
Leeds	Carlisle	Melbourne	Castlemaine
Bedford	Albemarle	Melville	Downes
Devonshire	Stair	BISHOPS.	Bexley
Hamilton	Buckingham	London	De Tabley
Argyll	Fitzwilliam	Carlisle	Plunket
Northumber-	Cornwallis	Peterborough	Heytesbury
land	Mt. Edgecumbe	Ely	Talbot of Mala-
Sutherland	Cork	Limerick	hide
MARQUES.	Finlagh	LORDS.	Poltimore
Tweeddale	Kingston	Stourton	Mostyn
Hertford	Sefton	Petre	Godolphin
Bute	Caledon	Saye and Sele	Methuen
Donegal	Kenmare	Dormer	Stuart de
Headfort	Rosse	Ward	Decies
Northampton	De Grey	Monson	Colborne
Anglesey	Dunraven	Wodehouse	Seaton
Bristol	Amherst	Cloncurry	

MINORITY—PRESENT, 126.

DUKES.	Ashburnham	Ranfurly	Willoughby de
Richmond	Warwick	viscounts.	Broke
Grafton	Guilford	Hereford	St. John
Beaufort	Hardwicke	Maynard	Saltoun
Marlborough	Delawarr	Strangford	Polwarth
Rutland	Mansfield	Middleton	Sondes
Montrose	Beverley	Gage	Boston
Manchester	Carnarvon	Doneraile	Kawke
Newcastle	Cadogan	St. Vincent	Walsingham
Buckingham	Ma'mesbury	Sidmouth	Southampton
Cleveland	Egmont	Lorton	Granley
MARQUES.	Longford	Lake	Berwick
Salisbury	Enniskillen	Exmouth	Sherborne
Downshire	Wicklow	Beresford	Kenyon
Ely	Lisnas	Conbermere	Braybrooke
Exeter	Wilton	Canterbury	Corington
Westmeath	Limerick	Ponsonby	Rayning
EARLS.	Clancarty	Hill	Bolton
Huntingdon	Powis	BISHOPS.	Northwick
Winchelsea	Nelson	Winchester	Lifford
Chesterfield	Charleville	Bangor	Clonbrock
Sandwich	Manvers	Rochester	Crofton
Abingdon	Oxford	Llandaff	Redesdale
Eglington	Lonsdale	Gloucester	Colchester
Kinnoull	Harewood	Exeter	Rayleigh
Airlie	Brownlow	Tenterden	Faversham
Selkirk	Sheffield	Chichester	Skelmersdale
Orkney	Eldon	LORDS.	Wynford
Oxford	Falmouth	Stanley	Templemore
Dartmouth	Somers	De Ros	Abinger
Aylesford	Stradbroke	Hastings	Ashburton
Stanhope	Cawdor	Clinton	De Freyne
Pomfret	Munster	Beaumont	

PROXIES, 38.

DUKE.	Waldegrave	Glengall	Sinclair
Portland	Hechester	Yarborough	Reay
EARLS.	Digby	Gainborough	Dynevor
Shrewsbury	Shannon	viscounts.	Bagot
Poulett	Roden	Arbuthnot	Farnham
Moray	McCashell	De Veseli	Alvanley
Balcarras	Mayo	O'Neill	Ravenworth
Seaford	Erne	LORDS.	De Saumarez
Ferrers	Donoughmore	Willoughby de	BISHOPS.
Tankerville	Onslow	Eresby	St. Asaph
Macclesfield	Beauchamp	Vaux	Bath and Wells

Lord Belhaven paired for the bill, with the Earl of Lauderdale against it.

REPRESENTATION OF HERTFORDSHIRE.—We are happy to be able to announce, that Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart., has consented to become a candidate for the representation of this county in Parliament, on the next vacancy.—*Hertford Mercury*.

THE OREGON QUESTION.—The *Dublin Evening Post* says, "We are assured that a letter has been received from a gentleman connected with the English legation at Washington, announcing that the preliminary arrangements for the settlement of the Oregon question have been agreed upon between Mr. Pakenham and the United States government."

JOSEPH ADY.—At the Thames Police-office, on Thursday, Joseph Ady was brought up for re-examination on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences. He was committed for trial on the case of Mr. Hill, from whom he had obtained sixty postage-stamps. Another charge was then investigated: it was proved that Joseph had obtained twenty shillings from Captain Hornsby, of Woolwich, promising "information to his advantage;" the Captain never derived any "advantage" from his outlay. The prisoner was also committed on this charge; but he was admitted to bail in both cases.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—"It is a fact," says the *Liverpool Albion*, "that the greater number of friendly societies formerly existing have failed; and it is alleged that the greater number of those now existing are on an unsound basis, and are doomed to the same fate."

CORRESPONDENCE.

JOURNALISM IN FRANCE AND THE "BRITISH QUARTERLY" FOR MAY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The writer of the article "Journalism in France," in the last number of the *British Quarterly*, was introduced to me about twelve months since, by two gentlemen of high position, in connexion with our daily and quarterly press. I was assured that he would be found equal to any literary undertaking to which he should profess himself competent, and that he would be especially at home in matters connected with France and French literature. My engagement with him to prepare the article on French Journalism was made about nine months since. Space, time, remuneration, all were settled satisfactorily; and I subsequently volunteered the payment of the expenses of the writer for a fortnight in Paris, his stay there for that time being necessary to his obtaining the fullest and most accurate information on the subject entrusted to him. It was well known to me, moreover, that the gentleman was a regular contributor to some of our leading political and literary journals.

So much in defence of my editorial prudence; and I feel assured that your readers will not peruse the following letter without being satisfied that the writer of the assailed article was fully entitled to the confidence which I had been led to repose in him. The Reviewer is of course at liberty to act upon his own judgment, but the malice *preconçue* of the attack made upon him and upon the review is so palpable, that my advice to him would be not to bestow the least attention on anything further that may proceed from an opponent so little amenable to the laws of honourable controversy. I am, Sir, yours truly,

THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.
June 1.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—A friend has directed my attention to a letter in your paper of Wednesday last, signed "Constant Reader," on which, as the writer of the assailed article in the *British Quarterly*, I claim, as a mere debt of justice, to make a few remarks. With the reasonings, imputations, or opinions, of "Constant Reader," I shall not attempt to deal. He is very welcome to speculate as to my motives, or to depreciate my style. I am indifferent as to what he thinks or expresses on these points, however unjust or offensive his language; but, when he attempts to impugn my facts and statements, however feebly or disingenuously, it is necessary I should set myself right with your readers and the public at large. His first statement is, that the Bertins were not the founders of the *Débats*, and that the journal was founded in 1780. It is stated in the "Histoire du Journal des Débats" (Paris, Baudry, 1839) that the paper was founded at the close of the Directory. In the "Statistics of France," by Goldsmith (Hatchard, 1832), are these words:—"This journal (the *Débats*) was established during the Directory." The Directory, as every well-informed person is aware, commenced in 1795, and ended with the Revolution of the 18th Brumaire, in November, 1799. In the "Biographie Septennale de la Chambre," published by Dentu, in 1826, it is stated:—

Il (i. e. Bertin de Vaux) fonda, avec son frère aîné, le Journal des Débats, dont il est encore propriétaire et rédacteur. This is confirmed by the *Statistique Constitutionnelle de la Chambre de 1814 à 1819*, by Braun, published by Pichon and Didier in 1829, in which it is said, "Bertin, l'un des fondateurs et co-rédacteurs du Journal de l'Empire," depuis "Journal des Débats." In the *Biographie Générale des Députés*, Session 1831, published by Ladvocat, are these words, "Bertin de Vaux, Bertin l'aîné, Roux Laborie, et Chabaud Latour fondèrent le Journal des Débats." Jules Janin, in his *Biographie Sketch* of the Bertins, published in 1833 by Mandar, says, "M. Bertin l'aîné et son frère sont les deux fondateurs du Journal des Débats." So much for the first and second contradiction given to my statement by "Constant Reader." "Constant Reader" goes on to state that Bertin the eldest was born in 1770, and that he joined the paper in 1779, but that in the following year, that is to say, in 1780, he was implicated in a royalist conspiracy. Now, I believe Bertin was born in 1771, though the fact is by no means certain, and that he was at the college of St. Barbe in 1780, when, to believe "Constant Reader," he was in his tenth year, and implicated in a royalist conspiracy which never had existed at that period. I will not say a word as to the folly of supposing a child of nine years old joined a newspaper. "Constant Reader" goes on to state the circumstances that introduced the younger brother into the paper, but says, "that his business as a banker did not allow him to interfere much in the editing." Now it was not until 1801, according to the *Statistique Constitutionnelle*, that Bertin de Vaux formed a bank twenty-one or twenty-two years later than the period of which your correspondent speaks.

Your correspondent states that the *Journal des Débats* cast off the name of *Débats* in 1805. In answer, I shall merely state that I have now before me in print a remarkable article in the *Journal des Débats* of 1805, written by a remarkable man, and on a remarkable book. The article is written by M. de Fontanes, and it is a criticism on the "Essais de Morale et de Politique" of the Count Molé, afterwards minister. If your correspondent, however, had carefully read the paper which he criticises he would find that at page 481 I divide the history of the *Débats* into two epochs; first, the *Journal de l'Empire*, and second, the *Journal des Débats*, the same journal under a new name.

Your "Constant Reader" goes on to state, that Etienne was not named one of the higher political writers of the *Débats* in 1810. In a biographical sketch of Etienne, published in 1836, by the worthy P. A. Dafaun, who was his friend, and the author of half-a-dozen well-known works, are these words:—"En 1810 M. Etienne se vit appelé à remplacer M. Fievet dans la haute direction politique du Journal des Débats." It is further stated, the *Globe* was not a newspaper. Now I aver it was a newspaper, just as much as the *Spectator*, or *Examiner*, are newspapers, though not published daily. Of this I afford you ocular proof, in sending a copy which it has cost me six hours' search to find. Your "Constant Reader" says that Benjamin Constant never was principal editor of the *Courrier Français*, and never even a regular contributor to it. I have now before me a biography of Constant, written by his most intimate friend, and published in Paris in 1835, wherein the author, the Advocate Pagès (who produced, in conjunction with Constant, the "Annales de la Session de 1817 et 1818," and who was himself one of the founders of the *Courrier*) states, that Constant contributed to that paper, to the *Mercur*, the *Minerve*, the *Renommé*, and the *Temps*. I was myself introduced to Constant in, I think, January, 1826, by a then member of the British House of Commons, now a member of the Upper House. I was at that time a very young man, and had frequent opportunities of seeing him till 1829 and 1830; and during that period I

have frequently seen and read in MS., and had read to me by the author, articles written by Constant for the *Courrier Français*, and other newspapers—French, German, and English.

Your "Constant Reader" states that Geoffroy died in 1814. If he had read and not misrepresented my article, he would have found that I state, at page 481, that he died in 1814 in his 70th year, and again at page 483. He therefore could not play an important part after the Restoration: the word restoration being a misprint, which was written in the manuscript after the Revolution of the 18th Brumaire, that is to say after November 1799.

Your "Constant Reader" states that the *Gazette de France* could not insert the contributions of Colnet from 1836 to 1837, since he died in 1832. So I have stated in the last line of page 494; but your conscientious correspondent fastens on a misprint four lines higher up, where the years 1836 and 1837 are substituted by the printer for 1816 to 1831. I send herewith my original manuscript, which your "Constant Reader" may verify, if he pleases, at the printer's, in order to establish a fact already sufficiently clear from internal evidence.

I do not state that Marrast conducted the *National* immediately after the death of Carrel in 1826. I state (page 499) that Carrel was shot in 1836, and not in 1826; and at page 501, that La Roche and Marrast conducted the *National* subsequently to 1836, and such is the fact.

I do not fix the exact period at which Etienne became a shareholder in the *Constitutionnel*. I say (page 490) somewhere about 1817 or 1818, your correspondent says in 1816. This question can only be determined by the production of the deed of partnership. But is it of any importance? I was well aware that Etienne's Letters on Paris had appeared in the *Minerve* before they were published in 1820 in a separate form; and if Etienne became a shareholder of the *Constitutionnel* previously to their being collected in a volume. I am in error as to the time in which he became a partner in the paper. All this is what lawyers call an immaterial issue; but if your "Constant Reader" will produce the partnership deed, or a letter from the paper-maker who sold Etienne the share, I will penitently confess to the heinous error of not knowing as much of Etienne's private affairs as his attorney or notary. The guilt is great, and the punishment should be proportionate.

I never stated that Hyde de Neuville supported by his writings the *Quotidienne* during Martignac's ministry. Labourdonnaye supported it by his writings, as I state, and Hyde de Neuville by his pecuniary subscriptions and the encomiums he used to lavish on the writers in society and elsewhere. In the last days of December, 1827, and the beginning of 1828, Hyde de Neuville was most unfavourable to the Martignac Administration, then in course of formation, in consequence of the previous connection of Martignac with Villele, who had recalled Hyde de Neuville from Portugal, where he was ambassador; but early in March Martignac and De Neuville came to a better understanding, and the latter succeeded Chabrol as Minister of Marine. These sudden reconciliations are matters of frequent occurrence among French politicians, as "Constant Reader" would know if he had ever mixed with them, or knew anything of French politics. I have a word to say as to Michel Chevalier. In speaking of journalism in France, it was no part of my duty to touch on the religious belief of journalists. That is matter between them and their God; and, even though I were a minister of the gospel, which I am not, I think the occasion was not the fitting one to enter into a dissertation on religious opinions. I have read no very full exposition of the doctrine of the St. Simonians; but, as far as I understand the doctrines professed by the extinct sect, I consider them to be equally mischievous and foolish. But Chevalier had long ago renounced these doctrines, and proclaimed peace, order, education, public works, intercommunication, railroads, canals, &c. *Intérêts matériels, politique industrielle*, have long been his mottos; and he was the first, in a season of fierce excitement, to rebuke the warlike spirit of his countrymen. These improved and rational opinions—his recantation of the errors and follies of his youth, as I call them in p. 488, in addition to his unrivalled acquirements as a statistician, a political economist, and an engineer, recommended him to Aveyron (Gard) as a deputy, and he is now one of the best and most enlightened members of the Chamber.

I remember reading in the *Débats*, in January, 1838, his eloquent repudiation of his former errors—what your correspondent calls—(a species of sublime nonsense, and fine writing quite beyond my comprehension)—"the destruction of Christianity, and the appropriation of other property;" and I do not envy the feelings of the man who, eight years subsequently, seeks to revive the errors of an extinct sect, and of a repentant and reformed man of genius, who seeks, by a career of public usefulness, to atone for the sins of his youth.

My article, sir, is not an "abbreviate translation" from the French, but is the result of my own observation, experience, and reading. I have long been familiar with France, French statesmen, politicians, advocates, and men of all shades of opinion. There has been scarcely a Minister of France, for the last nineteen years, I have not personally known; but I have not adopted their opinions, but judged for myself. In an article extending to three sheets and a half, embracing more than 1,800 facts in reference to persons and things, there must, of necessity, be errors of omission, as well as errors of the press; but, "Constant Reader" has, nevertheless, failed to convict me of a single error.

Engaged in active life, and with multitudinous occupation, I find the paltriest and most captious criticism wearisome to answer. It is irksome when you are engaged in weightier matters, and unpleasant and troublesome whether you are engaged or not, to be obliged to show, in justice to yourself, that your opponent is neither fair, nor formidable, nor candid, nor ingenuous. If you or your readers will peruse the article, the criticism, and the reply, I have no fears for the result of a just and honest judgment.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
THE AUTHOR OF "JOURNALISM IN FRANCE."

[We think it due to our correspondent to state that we have seen the *Globe*, and also the MS. alluded to in the above letter, and can, therefore, so far confirm his statement.]

A RAGGED SCHOOL has been established in Birmingham. Two evenings a week it is attended by 100 females, and on four evenings by seventy or eighty males.

THE FRUIT.—We regret to state that a serious caterpillar blight has attacked the fruit plantations in Mid Kent, which has affected them to such an extent that orchards which a month since presented the most luxuriant appearance, and the most promising bloom, now threaten to be almost unproductive. The land generally is also infested with slugs, which cause the greatest havoc, particularly on garden ground. The mildness of the late winter is no doubt the cause of these visitations.—*Maidstone Journal*.

LITERATURE.

Memoir of the Rev. Samuel Dyer, Sixteen Years Missionary to the Chinese. By EVAN DAVIES, Author of "China and her Spiritual Claims." London: John Snow. 1846.

"If I thought anything could prevent my dying for China, the thought would crush me." Such is the motto of the book—such was the language of Dyer—and the whole course of labour and self-denial here described was in perfect keeping with the sublime expression. Mr. Dyer was a man of singular excellence. He possessed a large measure of the mind that was in Christ. Humble, benevolent, and supremely set upon doing good to the souls of men, he presented a fine model of the missionary character. The retiring modesty shone beautifully in association with labours "more abundant" than those of many. He was not a man to talk, but to work. His heart was in his office. He spent, and was spent, for Christ. Without any very striking qualities of intellect, he had a mind in which most faculties received a good share of development. It was a well-balanced mind. In some important respects it was exceedingly well adapted for missionary work, and especially in the sphere to which he was called.

The record of his life and labours is such as must be read with interest. It has the advantage of being written by one who well knew the man, his work, and his sphere, and contains much to promote personal piety, to stimulate and enlighten missionary zeal, and to draw out Christian sympathy towards the immense population of that gigantic empire—CHINA.

Moral Heroism; or, The Trials and Triumphs of the Great and Good. By CLARA LUCAS BALFOUR. pp. 368. London: Houlston and Stoneman, 1846.

THIS book contains twelve chapters, illustrating Moral Heroism as displayed in alleviating the misery of others—in removing ignorance and poverty—in self-conquest—in planting colonies, making laws, and teaching Christianity—in bearing poverty, and practising self-culture under adverse circumstances—in advancing the interests of science—in enduring disappointment under personal affliction—in faithfully admonishing the great, in visiting the outcast, and in enduring provocation, threatenings, and danger—in female character—in the ordinary pursuits of life. The persons selected as examples are, in general, well chosen—the style adopted is familiar and plain—and the principles inculcated are sound and healthy. As a book for young persons, we cannot easily give it too warm a recommendation. It is impossible for it to be read without doing much to destroy the spurious and false notions of greatness that are at the root of a large measure of personal and national vice and folly. We strongly advise parents and instructors to purchase copies of it as a book suitable for reading-lessons, and as constituting a graceful present.

The Scripture Doctrine of Future Punishment. An Argument, in Two Parts. By H. H. DOBNEY. Second Edition, pp. 278. London: Ward and Co., 1846.

We do not take part in theological controversies, and shall therefore merely say what this book is, and how it is written. About sixty pages of the volume belonged to "Notes of Lectures," published by the author about two years ago. He has been induced to amplify the argument so as to make it fill a respectably-sized volume.

Mr. Dobney is one of a class, not large we believe, but increasing, who hold the general sentiments of orthodoxy, but have renounced the opinion of the eternity of future punishment. His theory is—that there will be punishment in the next world, but that it will cease through the annihilation of the wicked. He thus differs from those who advocate the annihilation of sinners at the judgment, or after death, and from those who believe in their future restoration to holiness and heaven.

In maintaining his views, Mr. Dobney is not to be despised. Whatever may be thought of his doctrine, his arguments, and his mode of using them, deserve respectful attention. He has evidently thought deeply upon the subject, and is at home both with the critical and the moral reasonings. It would be too much to say that he never appears rather as the partisan than as the philosopher. Like most men who plead for a favourite notion, especially if it be a new one in itself or to them, he occasionally overlooks what ought properly to be regarded, and makes more of an argument than it will justly bear. Without expressing any opinion upon the subject, we may rejoice in its discussion, and hope that it will always fall into hands as fitting as those of Mr. Dobney.

The Eternal; or, the Attributes of Jehovah, as the God of our Fathers, contemplated in Christ and Creation. By ROBERT PHILIP. pp. 270. London: Ward and Co. 1846.

As a practical writer, Mr. Philip possesses strong claims upon public attention. He is not a philosopher, and reveals the fact, we fancy, when he least suspects the exposure; and he has certain blemishes that are very much in the way of sound popularity and really valuable impression. His desire to be original frequently leads to expatiation upon views that have but little in them, and to the bold enunciation of others that have nothing; while his inordinate and vicious love of point draws him into a use of antithesis and alliteration that are altogether incompatible with good writing. With these exceptions, he is an author of great merit. When treating the more important matters of "life and godliness," he often puts common thoughts in a very striking manner, and has great skill and power in dealing with consciences and hearts. We cannot say that we think the present volume the best that has issued from his pen, but it contains much valuable matter, has a direct tendency to do good, and therefore deserves our cordial recommendation.

The Heavenly Home. By THOMAS WALLACE. pp. 66. London: C. A. Bartlett, 32, Paternoster-row. 1846.

THIS unpretending little volume treats upon a subject that irresistibly appeals to the most lovely natural sensibilities and most exalted spiritual dispositions of the soul. It is eminently adapted to holy and soothing meditation. Mr. Wallace appears to have felt much sympathy with his theme, and the results of his reflections he here presents in a form of simplicity and tenderness that will find its way, we doubt not, to the hearts of many.

Juliet: a Memorial of a Little Girl. London: B. Wertheim.

ANOTHER of the delightful publications for children for which the religious public are so greatly indebted to this publisher.

The Sick Chamber. London: Chapman, Brothers.

"WHEN it is considered how a large a portion of a woman's life is passed in nursing, or being nursed, it seems strange that this most useful and necessary art does not hold a prominent place in her education. High and low, rich and poor, young and old, all require its aid; and it will be my aim to make this little book intelligible to all; for 'have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?'" Such are the reason and purpose of the writer, whom we do not know, but respecting whom we imagine many will make a shrewd guess.

The idea of the book is excellent, and very excellently it is worked out. It does not assume the office of religious instruction or suggestion, but deals with matters nevertheless of the greatest importance to the comfort and the health of patients. Life is made up of little things, and there is no place in which little things are invested with a higher character, and connected with greater consequences, than in a sick chamber. The writer is well qualified for her task. She has a keen perception, a sound judgment, and tender consideration. She writes like one who has the wisdom of experience; and multitudes will find her advice invaluable.

The True Grandeur of Nations. An Oration. By CHARLES SUMNER, Esq., Boston, Massachusetts. London: William Smith.

AN eloquent plea for peace, breathing the true spirit of philanthropy, but occasionally rather high-flown and rapid.

The Grievances of the Working Classes; and the Pauperism and Crime of Glasgow. With their Causes, Extent, and Remedies. By I. SMITH, M.A., author of "Sacred Biography," &c., &c.

A most melancholy description of scenes and statement of facts, which, though belonging to Glasgow, may doubtless find their counterpart in other large towns. We trust that the work will draw attention to the claims the urgency of which it presents in the strongest form.

A Manual of Map-Making and Mechanical Geography. Illustrated by SIXTY Engravings. By ALEXANDER JAMIESON, LL.D., author of a "Dictionary of Mechanical Science." London, Edinburgh, and Dublin: A. Fullarton, and Co. 1846.

A BOOK of considerable information, and most valuable directions.

The Mission of the German Catholics. By G. G. GERVINUS. Translated from the German. London: Chapman, Brothers.

CONTAINING some things we do not understand, more we do not approve, and more still with which we thoroughly agree. It is worthy the attention of men, especially theologians, who are interested in the signs and prospects of the times in their relation to religious opinions and social progress.

Wesleyan Hymnology; or, a Companion to the Wesleyan Hymn-Book: comprising Remarks, Critical, Explanatory, and Cautionary, designed to promote the more profitable use of the volume. By WILLIAM PENNINGTON BURGESS, Wesleyan Minister. Second Edition, revised and corrected. London: John Snow. 1846.

THIS is a well-meant attempt to explain, point out the excellencies and defects, and guide in the use, of the Wesleyan Hymn-book. It will doubtless tend to both edification and pleasure, especially among the members of the body for whom it is principally designed. Matters of taste and poetry are, of course, things upon which men are likely to differ; and we should not always be able to accord with our author, either in his preference of Charles Wesley as a poet to others, or in his admiration of particular compositions. As a whole, however, his observations are marked by candour, good sense, and a commendable desire to benefit his readers. It is amusing to find that the volume drew forth a severe rebuke from some writer in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*, on this ground, among others, that "a volume bearing such a sanction as that which is implied in the authority of Mr. Wesley, and in the perpetuated imprimatur of the Conference," should not be exposed to such a critical examination! Are we Protestants?

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *Lectures on Christian Discipleship and Baptism.* By Rev. C. STOVEL.
2. *The Sick Chamber.*
3. *Memoir of Rev. S. Dyer.*
4. *The True Grandeur of Nations.* By C. SUMNER.
5. *The Mission of the German Catholics.* By G. G. GERVINUS.
6. *The Heavenly Home.* By THOS. WALLACE.
7. *Wesleyan Hymnology.* By W. P. BURGESS.
8. *Dobney on Future Punishment.*
9. *Finet's Vital Christianity.*
10. *Missionary Labours and Scenes in Southern Africa.* By R. MOFFATT.
11. *The Railway System and its Author, Thomas Gray, now of Exeter.*
12. TRACT SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS:—
The Solar System.
Christian Philosophy. By A. VINET, D.D.

GLEANINGS.

On Wednesday last a white whale was captured in the Medway. It measures thirteen feet in length.

At length preparations are actually in progress for the completion of the Nelson column: a number of workmen have been engaged on the basement, preparing the brick-work for the reception of the granite steps and bronze lions which are to complete the monument.

The great clock at the General Post-office, which regulates post-office time throughout the country, has just been cleaned and renovated. It has not varied one minute in eleven years.

EARNINGS BY CONVICTS.—The expense of the convict hulk establishment last year was £56,397 12s., and the estimated value of the labour of the convicts was £63,408 15s. 6d.

An issue of threepenny silver pieces has just been made by the Mint.

Mr. Pemberton Milnes, in giving his evidence before the London and York Committee, stated that in consequence of the abstraction of traffic from the North road, the number of postboys in one well-known town which was formerly twenty, had dwindled down to two, and one of them had since hanged himself.

AMERICAN LAWYERS.—It is asserted that, when a stranger is obliged to employ one of these gentry, he frequently employs another for the purpose of attending and watching his movements, and to protect him against the rapacity or rascality of the first.

GOOD ADVICE.—Never cut a piece out of a newspaper until you have looked on the other side, where, perhaps, you may find something more valuable than that which you intended to appropriate. Never burn your fingers, if you can help it; people burn their fingers every day, when they might have escaped it if they had been careful.

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—One of the men now engaged as conductor to an omnibus plying between the railway station at Leamington and Warwick, was, in 1831, mayor of the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon.

A NEW USE FOR INDIA-RUBBER.—A gentleman in New York has recently constructed a very convenient bed and pillows of India-rubber.

Common Sense: What is the end of punishment as regards the individual punished? Custom: To make him better! Common Sense: How do you punish young offenders, who are (from their youth) peculiarly alive to example, and whom it is therefore more easy either to ruin or reform, than the matured? Custom: We send them to the House of Correction, to associate with the greatest rascals in the country!

The Anti-corn-law League has given notice to its clerks and agents, with few exceptions, that, after a period named, their services will not be required.

A perpetual calm would hinder the fructification of flowers. Let this console us under suffering.—Richter.

NOTTINGHAM.—Miss Frances Mary Goodacre, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Goodacre, formerly master of the Standard-hill Academy (Nottingham), has received a literary degree from the Institute of France, which was conferred after an examination of candidates recently held in Paris, where of course the proceedings would be entirely in the French language. [A distinction very rarely conferred on a foreigner, and a female.]

THE CANINE POSTMAN.—At Albany, in Worcestershire, the seat of Admiral Maling, a dog went every day to meet the mail, and brought the bag in his mouth to the house. The distance was about half a quarter of a mile. The dog usually received a meal of meat as his reward. The servants having, on one day only, neglected to give him his accustomed meal, the dog, on the arrival of the next mail, buried the bag, nor was it found without considerable search.—Jesse.

Two presents are on their way to Queen Victoria from quarters oddly contrasted. The Bey of Tunis has sent eight horses, three richly ornamented saddles, two ostriches, and two Moorish dresses; and the inmates of the Victoria Blind Asylum at Newcastle-upon-Tyne have prepared a handsome satin dress, worked entirely by themselves, to be presented to her Majesty for the use of the Princess Royal.

INDECISION.—How many occasions of doing good, in greater or less measures, are passed by from irresolution! While we are saying to ourselves, "Shall I, or shall I not?" the moment flies away; and the blossom of joy which we might have given to it is withered, and, often, cannot be revived by any tears of repentance.—Frederica Bremer.

EDITORIAL PLEASURES.—A gentleman called Doolittle, educated at Harvard University, and a native of Connecticut, was transplanted south to edit a violent party paper in a locality where "revolvers" *ad infinitum* and a whole armoury of bowie-knives had a strong influence in preventing the freedom of speech. He held his situation six months; was stabbed twice, shot three times, once well cudgelled, and once thrown into a horsepond; but he congratulated himself upon never having been kicked. He retaliated upon his tormentors by shooting two of them as dead as doorposts, and then he departed for more peaceful latitudes. A New York paper declares that this is a fact.—*Montreal Courier.*

The fossil remains of a plesiosaurus have been discovered at Woodhouse, near Ely, in making a railway cutting. The workmen, ignorant of what they had lighted upon, broke to pieces and dispersed the head, neck, and trunk; but one of the paddles and about ten feet of the tail are expected to be got out tolerably perfect. The entire length of the creature is supposed to have been from twenty-five to thirty feet. Dr. Mantell says of the plesiosaurus—"This reptile combines in its structure the head of a lizard with teeth like those of a crocodile, a neck resembling the body of a serpent, a trunk and tail of the proportions of those of a quadruped, with paddles like those of a turtle."

BEAUTIES OF ELECTIONEERING.—There is now every probability of electioneering squabbles in the counties of Brecon and Monmouth. Breconshire has been uninterruptedly represented, for the last forty years, by Col. T. Wood. It appears that during that long period the honourable member has been a consistent and thorough-going Tory. Thinking, very probably, of retiring with laurels on his brow at the next general election, he determined to immortalise his name by supporting the free-trade measures of Sir Robert Peel. Whereupon 533 electors, out of 2,506 registered voters, signed a requisition to Joseph Bailey, Esq., M.P., of Glenusk-park, inviting him to contest the county, and to fight the battle of protection. To this requisition Mr. Bailey responded in the affirmative. Mr. Bailey, be it observed, has derived his fortune and his fame from his connexion with iron and coal works, but has

become a landowner of late. His powers as a speaker are of a mean order, and his statistical knowledge extremely defective, if not altered for the better very lately. He now represents the city of Worcester. In his address to the electors, he seems very anxious not to disturb the peace of the county; but it seems that an active canvass is carried on by his agent. Notwithstanding his old age, Col. Wood is determined to stand his ground, though he would have retired had no opposition been offered. In Monmouthshire an effort is about being made to reject Lord Granville C. H. Somerset, who has represented the county for the last thirty years. As a man, Lord Granville Somerset is very popular, and has always been very anxious to promote the benefit of his constituents. Being a member of the Government, he too has voted for free-trade. This has offended his brother, the Duke of Beaufort, and a requisition has been "got up" to Capt. E. A. Somerset, one of the Duke's nephews, a military gentleman, who talks exceedingly big in his bombastic and ridiculous address. He will be proud to fight the battle. He will support the existing institutions of Church and State, and will crown the electors with glory, provided they will refuse his free-trade uncle. An active canvass has been carried on by his friends, some say conjointly with the canvass for Mr. Octavius Morgan, the Protectionist member. The friends of Lord Granville Somerset have not been idle. We do not take upon ourselves to predict the result. The beauty of these solemn preparations in both counties is simply this, that the result is expected to turn entirely on the decision of one or two landlords, and these are the same in both counties, we mean the Duke of Beaufort and Sir Charles Morgan. These gentlemen are extensive landed proprietors, and the electioneering system in our country makes them likewise vote-proprietors—landlordism is not sufficient, there must be vote-lordism as well. Dissenters, we find, and Liberals are preparing to fight for Col. Wood and Lord Granville Somerset, on what ground we know not—both are of high church principles, and have no sympathy with our principles.—*From our Correspondent.*

ADVERTISING VANS.—Latterly the evil has broken out in so many quarters at once that there seems no chance of stopping it without the intervention of authority. Quackery of every kind is rearing its paper placards on the moving mountains, which under the name of advertising vans form obstructions, as if so many fragments of Alp or Appennine were thrown into the streets of the metropolis. Every puffing establishment sends out its miniature Mont Blanc of white paper placards, and the wonder is, that an occasional upset does not bury some unfortunate equipage of smaller dimensions under an avalanche. Unless some steps are taken, we are quite sure that the evil will become greater and greater, for every quack seeks to go beyond the others in the magnitude of his puffing apparatus. If one starts a perambulating Pelion, another sends forth an advertising Ossa or an Olympus of posting-bills. If one day we are addressed in our first-floors with a recommendation to take in some paper, offering us £10,000, and ready to reciprocate the favour by taking in the public at large, we are perhaps called upon to-morrow, through the window of our bed-room, to buy some pills on the strength of a wonderful cure performed upon that very accessible nobleman, the Earl of Aldborough.—*Times.*—At the Marylebone vestry, on Saturday, Sir Peter Laurie moved for the appointment of a deputation to wait on the Secretary of State, to urge upon him the subject of abolishing the perambulating street advertising vans. Earl Manvers seconded the motion. Mr. Rawlinson hoped the vestry would have the good sense to refuse the motion; the law was sufficiently effective to put down the nuisance. The motion was carried, there being only four dissentients.

EDUCATION IN SOUTH WALES.—Lest our readers may be misinformed and deluded in regard to what has been done by Government on the above subject, we deem it important to inform our friends in Wales that the Government has not interfered, and has not formed any plan of operation. *This we can state on the highest and best authority.*

A Norfolk cottager, one John Digby, writes to the *Norfolk Chronicle*, that he has discovered a berry growing in the hedges which, when planted whole, will produce potatoes of the finest quality ever grown. The berries are numerous enough to supply all England with potatoes.

BIRTHS.

May 26, the wife of Mr. JAMES COOMBS, chemist, High-street, Bedford, of a daughter.
May 31, the wife of Mr. B. FENN, of Old Broad-street, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

May 27, at the Baptist Meeting-house, Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, by Mr. Enoch Manning, Mr. Joseph B. GAMMAN, of Beaminster, Dorset, to ANNE, second daughter of David PAINE, Esq., of Wareley, Huntingdonshire.
May 28, at the Old Meeting-house, Stepney, by Dr. Burder, D.D., JOHN MORLEY, jun., Esq., of Hackney, to LYDIA ANN, daughter of William PATRICK, Esq., of Limehouse.
May 30, at George-street chapel, Oxford, by Mr. James Spence, M.A., Mr. EDMUND COX, of Slough, to ELKANOR, daughter of Mr. Alfred INNES, builder, Cumnor, Berkshire.

DEATHS.

May 26, at Brighton, Mr. ALFRED SPALDING, M.A., minister, in the 30th year of his age.
May 26, at Westbrook-house, Margate, WILLIAM GEORGE ASHWELL, youngest son of Mr. T. Ashwell, minister, of Bromsgrove.
May 30, at Blandford, Dorset, aged 28, SARAH NEALE, the eldest daughter of Mr. Malachi FISHER.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, May 29.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

RISHTON, JAMES, Huddlesden, Lancashire, cotton spinner.

BANKRUPTS.

BALDOCK, WILLIAM, Nottingham, grocer, June 16, July 14: solicitor, Mr. M. Browne, Nottingham.
BIRD, MARIA, Cheltenham, milliner, June 11, July 9: solicitor, Mr. J. B. Winterbottom, Cheltenham.
BOYD, JOHN, and BOYD, JAMES, Wellington-chambers, Southwark, hop merchants, June 15, July 10: solicitor, Mr. Phillips, Sisle-lane.
COXWELL, GEORGE SAMUEL, and CROSER, WILLIAM, Newcastle-

upon-Tyne, June 5, July 9: solicitors, Mr. I. Hewson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs. Capes and Stuart, Gray's Inn, London.
DARNBROUGH, WILLIAM, Richmond, Surrey, tailor, June 5, July 3: solicitors, Messrs. Kinder and Sorrell, Jewry-street, Aldgate.
DAVIES, ROBERT, Abbey Tintern, Monmouthshire, draper, June 12, July 10: solicitors, Messrs. W. and C. Bevan, Bristol.
ELLERMAN, CHARLES FREDERICK, Philpot-lane, City, agent, June 12, July 10: solicitors, Messrs. Amory and Co., Throgmorton-street.
FREEMAN, GEORGE, Croydon, Surrey, grocer, June 5, July 11: solicitors, Messrs. Allen and Nicol, Queen-street, Cheapside.
JEFFRIES, THOMAS, Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, victualler, June 9, July 7: solicitors, Mr. A. Harrison, Birmingham; and Mr. E. A. Chaplin, Gray's Inn-square, London.
LOCKS, WILLIAM, Leonard-street, Curtain-road, Shoreditch, timber merchant, June 16, July 10: solicitor, Mr. J. H. Taylor, Moor-gate-street.

REED, NEHEMIAH JOHN, Marlborough, Wiltshire, common brewer, June 11, July 10: solicitors, Messrs. Bennett and Paul, Sisle-lane, London.
ROLETT, FRANCIS, Great Marlborough-street, tailor, June 6, July 10: solicitors, Messrs. A'Beckett, Golden-square.
SUGER, THOMAS, Kingston-upon-Hull, corn merchant, June 10, July 1: solicitors, Mr. Hicks, Gray's Inn, London; and Messrs. Holden and Son, Hull.
WHITE, WILLIAM, Tavistock, tailor, June 10, July 1: solicitors, Mr. Stogden, Exeter; and Mr. Daw, Exeter.

DIVIDENDS.

George Watt, 8, Old Jewry, City, linen factor, first div. of 5s.; 18, Aldermanbury, any Saturday—John Jackson, Skipton, Yorkshire, grocer, first and final div. of 1s. 5d.; 7, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Tuesday—Tom Walter Green, Leeds, bookseller, third div. of 2s. 6d.; 15, Bishopsgate-street, Leeds, any day after June 1.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

MACPHAIL, JOHN, Dingwall, merchant, June 3 and 24.
M'LEAY, A. and G., Fortrose and Avoch, Ross-shire, farmers, June 6, July 4.

Tuesday, June 2.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—
The Baptist Chapel, Newbury, Berkshire.

BANKRUPTS.

AIRS, CHARLES, Newport, Isle of Wight, innkeeper, June 11, July 13: solicitors, Messrs. Wilde and Co., College-hall.
BIRCH, ANTHONY, Birmingham, grocer, June 10, July 10: solicitors, Messrs. Hill and Matthews, St. Mary-axe, London; and Mr. S. Bray, Birmingham.
BIRD, JAMES, 13, Club-row, Bethnal-green, timber-merchant, June 11, July 14: solicitor, Mr. Taylor, 38, Moor-gate-street.
BOWER, RANDOLPH, Heyrod and Black Rock-mills, Lancashire, cotton spinner, June 17, July 6: solicitors, Mr. John Abbott, 10, Charlotte-street, Bedford-row, London, and Messrs. Atkinson and Co., Manchester.

CHAPMAN, MATTHEW, Devonport, painter, June 16, July 16: solicitors, Mr. W. J. Little, Devonport; Messrs. Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury, London; and Mr. Stogden, Exeter.
CLARK, EDWARD, Mortimer-road, Kingsland-road, builder, June 12, July 14.

FENWICK, BENJAMIN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, linen draper, June 12, July 29: solicitor, Mr. Kent, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs. Nicholls and Doyle, Bedford-row, London.

HARRISS, CHARLES, Sheffield, tailor, June 19, July 3: solicitors, Mr. Pike, Old Burlington-street, London; and Mr. Binney, Sheffield.
HAYES, JOHN, Newton, Lancashire, manufacturing chemist, June 18, July 3: solicitors, Messrs. Austen and Hobson, Gray's Inn, London; and Mr. J. Webster, Manchester.

NIELD, JOHN, Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Saddleworth, woollen manufacturer, June 13, July 6: solicitor, Mr. J. E. Fox, 40, Finsbury-circus, London; and Messrs. Worthington and Co., Manchester.

ROBERTS, THOMAS, and HAZARD, JOHN TIMCOMBE, College-hill, paper agents, June 12, July 10: solicitor, Mr. R. Woollen, 30, Bucklebury.

SHAW, HENRY, Gerrard-street, Islington; Southampton-row, Russell-square; and Sloane-street, Chelsea, china and glass dealer, June 9, July 14: solicitors, Messrs. Venning and Co., Tokenhouse-yard.

STEELE, GEORGE, Claypath, Durham, grocer, June 12, July 28: solicitors, Mr. G. Smith, Durham; Mr. W. L. Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Mr. J. Rogers, 50, Lincoln's Inn-fields, London.

THOMSON, DAVID, Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth, Lancashire, bleacher, June 13, July 3: solicitors, Messrs. Milne and Co., Temple, London; and Mr. Venables, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.

Charles Carter, 23, Cloudeley-square, Islington, clerk in the Admiralty, div. of 1s. 3d., June 4, and three following Thursdays; 9, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street—Henry Watton, jun., Crowland, wheelwright, div. of 1s. 11d., June 4, and three following Thursdays; 9, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street—Leonard Watson, Rickmansworth, ironmonger, div. of 2d., June 4, and three following Thursdays; 9, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street—Edward Cooper Flowers, Whitechurch, cattle dealer, div. of 1s. 11d., June 4, and three following Thursdays; 9, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street—George Olden, Salisbury, grocer, div. of 3d., June 4, and three following Thursdays; 9, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street—William Tomlinson, jun., Nantwich, Cheshire, scrivener, fourth div. of 4d., any Thursday; 19, South Castle-street, Liverpool.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

M'CALLUM, ANGUS, and Co., Glasgow, merchants, June 8, 29.
MONCUB, THOMAS, Montrose, glass merchant, June 5, July 1.
MURRAY, ALEXANDER, Esq., late of Cally, June 5, 26.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
96½ to Account ..	96½	—	—	—	96½	97
3 percent. Reduced ..	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
New 3½ percent.	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Long Annuities ..	10½	10½	10½	10½	10½	10½
Bank Stock ..	205½	205½	—	206	206½	205½
India Stock ..	—	246	264½	—	—	265
Exchequer Bills ..	15pm	17pm	18	14pm	16pm	16pm
India Bonds ..	—	22	27	27	—	28

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	96½	Mexican ..	299
Brazilian ..	80½	Peruvian ..	394
Buenos Ayres ..	39	Portuguese 5 per cents. ..	81
Columbian ..	184	Ditto converted ..	57
Danish ..	87	Russian ..	1104
Dutch 2½ per cents.	59½	Spanish Active ..	24½
Ditto 4 per cents.	91½	Ditto Passive ..	59
French 3 per cents.	84	Ditto Deferred ..	16½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester	125	London & Croydon	22½
Blackwall ..	81	London and Greenwich	9
Bristol and Exeter ..	84½	Ditto New ..	—
Eastern Counties ..	23	Manchester and Leeds	127
Edinburgh and Glasgow	75½	Midland Counties ..	154
Grand Junction ..	215½	Ditto New Shares ..	33
Great North of England ..	154	Manchester and Birning	81
Great Western ..	89	Midland and Derby ..	125
Ditto Half ..	35½	Norwich and Brandon ..	25
Ditto Fifths ..	29	South Eastern and Dover	40
London and Birmingham	229	South Western ..	76
London & Birm. ½ Shares	29	Trent Valley ..	—
London and Brighton ..	65½	York and North Midland	102

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, June 1.

The show of English wheat this morning being very small, enabled factors to support the prices of this day's night for selected samples, but secondary descriptions met an extremely limited demand. The continuance of very beautiful weather checks all speculative inquiry for bonded, the quotations of which are nominally unaltered. Barley, beans, and peas, sell slowly at former rates. The arrival of oats last week was limited, and only one or two cargoes of Irish are reported fresh this morning; still, there is no improvement whatever in the demand for this article, every one purchasing as scantily as possible.

Wheat, Red ..	48 to 54	Malt, Ordinary ..	46 to 49
Fine ..	50 .. 56	Pale ..	52 .. 60
White ..	56 .. 62	Rye ..	31 .. 33
Fine ..	56 .. 62	Peas, Hog ..	32 .. 34
Flour, per sack ..	50 .. 53	Maple ..	32 .. 35
Barley ..	26 .. 27	Boilers ..	39 .. 41
Malt ..	34 .. 35	Beans, Ticks ..	32 .. 34

Beans, Pigeon ..	38 to 43	Wheat ..	16s. 0d.
Harrow ..	32 .. 39	Barley ..	9 0
Oats, Feed ..	24 .. 26	Oats ..	5 0
Fine ..	25 .. 28	Rye ..	9 6
Poland ..	22 .. 26	Beans ..	7 6
Potato ..	29 .. 31	Peas ..	8 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MAY 29.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	56s. 5d.	Wheat	56s. 2d.
Barley	28 10	Barley	29 8
Oats	23 8	Oats	23 6
Rye	31 6	Rye	33 9
Beans	36 0	Beans	35 4
Peas	34 6	Peas	34 4

BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, June 1.

The beef trade was in a very inactive state, at barely, but at nothing quotable beneath, last week's prices. The numbers of sheep were seasonably large; yet, on the whole, the mutton trade was steady, and previous rates were well supported in every instance. The supply of lambs was moderately extensive; yet the sale for that description of stock was firm, at very full prices. In calves very little was doing, at Friday's depressed figures. The pork trade was unusually dull, and the quotations had a downward tendency. The general quality of the stock was very good.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	2s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.	Veal ..	3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.
Mutton ..	3 2 .. 4 4	Pork ..	3 8 .. 4 10

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday ..	810	9,690	346
Monday ..	2,664	24,390	114

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, June 1.
Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.
Middling do 2 6 .. 2 8	Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 0
Prime large 2 10 .. 3 2	Prime ditto 4 0 .. 4 2
Prime small 3 4 .. 3 6	Veal 3 8 .. 4 8
Large Pork 3 4 .. 4 2	Small Pork 4 4 .. 4 10

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—In the seed market nothing of the slightest interest transpired, and in the absence of business of consequence quotations underwent no change requiring notice.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Monday.—The high prices that were made for several of the preceding weeks has so narrowed the consumption, that the demand is not sufficient for the present supply, and a great fall in the prices of the Scotch Reds has been the consequence. The prices ranged during the last week as follows:—York Reds, 100s. to 180s.; Regents, 50s. to 90s.; Scotch Reds, from 80s. to 100s. There were some stale and damaged cargoes that were nearly unsaleable.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—Our market in the past week ruled dull. There was a very trifling demand for all kinds of new Irish butter, and prices varied from 76s. to 86s. per cwt. The abundance of foreign and home make was equal to all wants and purposes. Prices of foreign closed at 68s. to 76s. per cwt., according to quality. For singed bacon there was a slow sale; the demand on board and landed limited, and prices the turn cheaper; arising mostly from many dealers having supplies by recent arrivals; otherwise the consumption was favourable to improvement. Bale and tierce middles, hams, and lard, were limitedly dealt in, and the value of all a shade lower than last quoted. There has, during the week, been a very fair demand for good and fine cheese, and all that would come at old rates were sold; the holders are now expecting an advance, which the mongers, however unwilling, must submit to.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 8d. to 8½d.; of household ditto, 6d. to 7½d. per 4lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, June 1.—The market for hops is dull, owing to the fineness of the weather.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The public sales of wool were concluded on Saturday, and we are sorry to state that the result has by no means been satisfactory as regards the prices realised, though the bulk of the wool has found buyers. The import of wool into London last week was 2,294 bales. Of this quantity 1,103 bales were from Sidney, 557 from Van Diemen's Land, 353 from Bombay, 5 from Trieste, 193 from the Cape of Good Hope, and 84 from Germany.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, May 30.—The market continues firm. The sales were 5,000, 1,500 of which were taken on speculation and for exportation.

TALLOW, MONDAY, June 1.—The market may be considered firm, at full prices. Town tallow is 40s. 6d. to 41s., net cash.

HIDE AND SKIN MARKET.

Market Hides, 56 to 64lbs.	s. d.	s. d.
Do. 64 72lbs.	0 0	0 3 per lb.
Do. 72 80lbs.	0 0	0 3 ..
Do. 80 88lbs.	0 3	0 34 ..
Do. 88 96lbs.	0 34	0 44 ..
Do. 96 104lbs.	0 4	0 5 ..
Calf Skins ..	3 0	0 6 each.
Horse Hides ..	13 0	0 0 ..
Polled sheep ..	6 0	7 6 ..
Kents and Half-breds ..	4 8	6 6 ..
Downs ..	4 0	5 0 ..
Shearlings ..	0 6	0 8 ..
Lambs ..	2 9	4 0 ..

HAY, SMITHFIELD, May 23.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	65s. to 88s.	Oat Straw ..	33s. .. 34s.
Clover Hay ..	88 .. 115	Wheat Straw ..	34 .. 36s.

COAL EXCHANGE, May 29.

Stewart's, 15s. 0d.; Hetton's, 15s. 0d.; Braddyl's Hettons, 14s. 6d.; Lambton, 14s. 6d.; Adelaide, 15s. 0d.; West Hartlepool, 15s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 468.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Map	0 2 6
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Manual for the Teacher	0 2 0—1 6 6
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One Hundred Tablet Lessons in a frame—same subject as First and Second Grades, but amplified	1 10 0
Fifty Pictorial Illustrations of the Lessons	0 4 0
Map	0 2 6
Manual for the Teacher	0 2 0—1 18 6
Fourth Step.	
Harmony of the Gospels	0 2 6
Gospel History, with Geographical Exercises and Questions	0 2 6
Map	0 2 6
Manual of Third Grade	0 2 0—0 9 6
Fifth Step.	
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25	19 0 0	24 0 10	5 0 10			
30	20 15 0	26 14 2	5 19 2			
35	23 8 4	29 18 4	6 10 0			
40	27 7 6	33 19 2	6 11 8			
45	32 17 6	38 19 2	6 1 8			
Annual Saving in	These Savings will			Total Assurance for		
	Scottish Provident.			the Higher Premiums.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
5	0 10	265 0 0	1265 0 0			
5	19 2	287 0 0	1287 0 0			
6	10 0	278 0 0	1278 0 0			
6	11 8	240 0 0	1240 0 0			
6	1 8	185 0 0	1185 0 0			

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* Particulars will be given next week.

ELSTEAD, SURREY.

ANOTHER VICTIM TO CHURCH-RATES.—

CORNWALL AND PAYNE v. WOODS.—In the Archdeacon Court, on Friday, May 22nd, the Defendant was adjudged to pay the Rate and Costs, amounting to about £200.

At a PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of Elstead and its vicinity, held in the BRITISH SCHOOL-ROOM, on FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 29th, 1846, for the purpose of reporting the proceedings against Mr. JOHN WOODS, in the Ecclesiastical Court, and of considering what further steps shall be taken in the case—T. G. APPLETON, Esq., in the Chair—it was unanimously resolved:—

First—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the rate never ought to have been levied, for the following reasons:—

First—Because the Chairman was never properly appointed to the chair; only one witness having sworn to that fact, while numbers have sworn to the contrary.

Second—Because on a show of hands there were two to one against the rate, the Chairman persisting in calling the majority the minority, although he was told of his mistake; his reply being—"Hold your tongue and mind your own business, I am Chairman and shall do as I like!"

Third—Because it was agreed by the churchwardens that one of them (Mr. Richard Payne) should go with Mr. Woods before the magistrates, state the case, and abide by their decision, and that the magistrates, after hearing the case, unanimously decided that the rate was bad.

Second—That this meeting believe, for the following reasons, that Mr. Woods has been most unfairly treated by the prosecuting parties, viz.:—

First—Because, after the magistrates decided that the rate was bad, Captain Cornwall, the other churchwarden, took out a summons against Mr. Woods.

Second—That, after the second hearing, Captain Cornwall followed Mr. Woods from the Bench, and called him out of a shop in Farnham, and said "he was very sorry having summoned him, as he found he could not enforce the rate; that he thought the only plan would be to call a meeting, and do away with it, and make a fresh one;" and that, very soon after this admission, Mr. Woods was cited to appear in the Ecclesiastical Court.

Third—Because that, in a certain stage of the proceedings, it was proposed by the churchwardens that the matter should be compromised, each party to pay their own expenses; to this Mr. Woods agreed, but afterwards the churchwardens would not stand to their bargain unless he paid £35 of their costs. Mr. Woods very properly refused to comply with this increased demand, saying, if he had to pay all expenses, he might as well take the chance of success.

For the above reasons this meeting cordially sympathises with Mr. Woods, and resolves to commence a subscription to assist in the payment of expenses so unjustly imposed upon him.

A vote of thanks was unanimously given to the Chairman for his impartial conduct in the chair.

Subscriptions are authorized to be received by T. G. Appleton, Esq., Treasurer, and Mr. T. W. Richards, Secretary to the Committee, Elstead; Mr. Fraser, Bookseller, Farnham; Mr. Lemare, Bookseller, Godalming; Mr. Andrews, Bookseller, Guildford; and at the Office of this Paper.

Subscriptions at the Meeting £26 0 0

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The WEEKLY MEETINGS of the Executive Committee during the present year (1846-7), will be held on WEDNESDAY Afternoon, at Four o'clock precisely, when the attendance of Members of the General Council who may be in town is earnestly requested.

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F. A. COX,
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18, Warwick-square, June 3, 1846.

* Money orders to be made payable to John Maximilian Webb, Esq., the Treasurer.

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By order of the Board,
May 27th, 1846.

ROBERT AINSIE, Secretary.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

The Annual Examination of the Central Girls' School will take place in the School Room, in the Borough-road, on WEDNESDAY, June 10th, at Eleven o'clock precisely.

The Right Hon. Lord KINNAIRD in the Chair.

Admission by Tickets only, which may be obtained on application at the Society's House, Borough-road.

HENRY DUNN, Secretary.

NEWPORT PAGNELL COLLEGE.—The

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY of this Institution is intended to be held in the INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, NEWPORT PAGNELL, on THURSDAY, the 11th of JUNE, 1846.

The Rev. E. MANNERING, of London, will preach at Eleven o'clock in the Morning. The Public Meeting, for transacting the business of the Institution, will be held at Three o'clock in the Afternoon of the same day. A Prayer Meeting will be held at seven o'clock on the Wednesday Evening preceding, at which addresses will be given. Tea will be provided as usual. A Collection will be made after each Service, for the benefit of the Institution.

TOWNLEY HOUSE, RAMSGATE.—Mr. and

Mrs. HOFFLESH respectfully inform their friends and the public that they will be happy to accommodate, during the approaching vacation, Ladies visiting Ramsgate, and to take charge of any Young Ladies whose friends wish them to spend that period at the sea-side. Terms, and likewise Prospectuses of the School, will be forwarded on application. Mr. Hoffleth intends returning from London on the 13th of June.

London, 121, Newgate-street,
May 28th, 1846.

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On the False Charges brought against the Heretics, particularly by the later Fathers.

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On the Jewish Dispensation, the Pentateuch, and the other Books of the Old Testament.

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NOTE XII.

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On the Gospel of Marcion.

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